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[JAMES HOLMES, TOKE'S COURT.]

## REVIEWS

*Prolusiones Historicae; or, Essays illustrative of the Halle of John Halle, Citizen and Merchant of Salisbury, in the Reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV.: with Notes Illustrative and Explanatory.* By the Rev. Edward Duke, M.A., F.A.S., and L.S. Vol. I. Salisbury, Brodie.

The handsome volume now before us is a curious, and, we think, an almost unique, specimen of how large a book may be made from the most slender materials. Of the hero, and his "Halle," very little information can be gathered. That he was a resident, and, in all probability, a native of Salisbury—an extensive wool-merchant, a representative of the city in three parliaments, and four times chosen Mayor by the suffrages of his fellow citizens;—that he built the "Halle" from whence the volume derives its title about the year 1470, and that he finally departed this life in 1479, is nearly all that can be ascertained respecting John Halle of Salisbury. Undismayed, however, by the paucity of his materials, the Rev. Edward Duke has succeeded, by the aid of Camden, Aubrey, the volumes of *Archæologia*, and sundry quotations from Chaucer, the *Spectator*, Edmondson's *Heraldry*, and fifty other books, in compiling a goodly volume of more than six hundred pages, in which his hero occupies a space that reminds us of Falstaff's halfpenny-worth of bread in his tavern bill; and yet, from the many subjects which, it appears, force themselves on Mr. Duke's attention, he finds it necessary to extend the work to a second volume, to be hereafter published. Seldom, indeed, has such a strange jumble of dissertations on all varieties of subjects met our eyes: a curious portrait of "John Halle" serves as a text for a series of essays on each article of his dress; and we are treated with disquisitions "on the girdle," commencing with that of the Jewish high priest; "on the hat," in which we are duly informed of the different kinds of coverings which the Romans wore on their heads: and there is a most elaborate essay, also, on the various modes of dressing the hair and the beard, in which every change of fashion is recorded, from the period when Mephibosheth remained unshaved until the return of David, and Absalom was caught by his fatal locks, down to days of moustaches and flowing periwiggs. From so very desultory a work it is difficult to find anything extractable; the following may interest some of our readers:—

"In the 29th year of Henry the Sixth, 1451, John Halle was, for the first time, chosen Mayor for the goodlie Cite of Salisbury, and we cannot but opine, that he passed through his arduous office with ability and judgment, ever remembering to temper justice with mercy; but much higher honours awaited him. So esteemed was he by his fellow-citizens, that, in the 31st year of Henry the Sixth, 1453, he was, on the 25th of February, elected (together with William Hore, Senior, Citizen and Merchant,) as a Burgess for the City to serve in a Parliament to be held at 'Redyng' on the sixth of March following. This Parliament, probably, met; but, in the course of the year, the King being dangerously ill, it was adjourned, and directed to meet at Westminster on the 14th of February in the following year, 1454; and, from 'Westmynstre,' on the 18th of April following, the King signed a Man-

date directed to the Mayor and Bailiffs of the City, and enjoining them to pay to the Burgesses, John Halle and William Hore, the sum of 32l. 12s., 'for their expenses in coming to the aforesaid Parliament, in staying there, and in returning from thence to their own homes; namely, for one hundred and sixty-three days, each of the fore-mentioned, John and William, receiving two shillings per day.'

"In the middle-ages the Knights for Counties were accustomed to receive 4s. per day for their attendance on their parliamentary duties, and the Burgesses of Cities and Boroughs 2s. per day for the like attendance. These respective sums are equivalent to those of 4s. and 2s. at the present time. \*\* It is observed by Prynne, in his 'Register of Parliamentary Writs,' that these wages had no other origin than that principle of natural equity and justice, 'qui sentit commodum, debet sentire et onus'; that is, 'he who feels the advantage ought also to feel the burden.' \*\* By agreement between the member and his constituents the monied payment was sometimes dispensed with; 'and the editor of Glanville's "Reports" has given in the preface (p. 23) the copy of a curious agreement between John Strange, the Member for Dunwich, and his electors, in the third of Edward IV., 1463, in which the member covenants, "whether the Parliament hold long time or short, or whether it fortune to be prorogued, that he will take for his wages only a cade and half a barrel of herrings, to be delivered by Christmas." ' It is said, that Andrew Marvell, who was member for Hull, in the parliament after the Restoration, was the last person in the country who received wages from his constituents. The sum of 32l. 12s., paid by the City of Salisbury to John Halle and William Hore for their services of one hundred and sixty-three days, as the Burgesses in Parliament, is equal in these, our days, to 3267!'

A letter, given in this volume, addressed by Edward IV. to the citizens of Salisbury, is curious both in its physiology and orthography—"has hit" for "as it," and "habilité," would seem to corroborate Dr. Pegge's opinion, that "cockneyisms" were formerly the court standard of language.

In one of his numerous notes, Mr. Duke gives an account of five small crucibles of graduated sizes, which were lately found, "plastered up in a small niche," in a room above the large entrance porch of the church of St. Thomas at Salisbury. These were evidently intended for alchemical purposes, and this discovery affords another proof of the eager devotedness with which the churchmen, during the Middle Ages, followed this wild dream. Our author endeavours to prove (and he appears to us to have succeeded) that these carefully hidden crucibles were used, not for the purpose of making gold, but for that higher and more difficult branch of the art, the making the "Elixir Vita," which was believed to be the "Quintessence of Gold." The following extract, relating to this subject, is curious, and with it we will conclude:—

"In these latter days it may excite surprise, in those who are ignorant of the historic fact, when I state, that even Princes did, in the middle-ages, favour and encourage the science of alchymy. It is very true, that in the reign of Henry the Fourth, A.D. 1403, a law was ordained against the pursuits of alchymists; but it is equally true, that those great Kings, Edward the First and Edward the Third, believed in the reality of their arts. The celebrated Raymond Lully came into England on the urgent application of Edward the First, and the alchymists were, by Edward the Third, most arbitrarily impressed into his service, as appears by the following proclamation, as cited by Henry in his

'History of Britain,' vol. viii. p. 203, from Rymer's 'Federa,' tom. 4, p. 384:—"Know all men, that we have been assured, that John Rows and Mr. William de Dalby know how to make silver by the art of alchymy; that they have made it in former times, and still continue to make it; and considering that these men, by their art, and by making that precious metal, may be profitable to us and to our kingdom, we have commanded our well-beloved Thomas Cary to apprehend the aforesaid John and William wherever they can be found, within liberties or without, and bring them to us, together with all the instruments of their art, under safe and sure custody."

"In the posterior reign of Henry the Sixth, we also find that the higher ranks of life believed in and encouraged the arts of alchymy. 'In that reign' (says Henry) 'we find many protections given to different alchymists to secure them from the penalty in an act of parliament made A.D. 1403, and from the fury of the people, who believed that they were assisted in their operations by infernal spirits. As these royal protections contain the sentiments entertained by that king and his ministers on this subject, it may not be improper to insert here a translation of the most material part of one of them. 'Ancient sages and most famous philosophers have taught, in their books and writings, under figures and emblems, that many notable and most glorious medicines may be extracted from wine, precious stones, oils, vegetables, animals, metals, and semi-metals; and particularly a certain most precious medicine which some philosophers have named the Mother and Queen of Medicines, some the Inestimable Glory, others the Quintessence, others the Philosopher's Stone, and others the Elixir of Life. The virtue of this medicine is so admirable and efficacious, that it cures all curable diseases with ease, prolongs human life to its utmost term, and wonderfully preserves man in health and strength of body, and in the full possession of his memory, and of all the powers and faculties of his mind. It heals all curable wounds without difficulty, is a most sovereign antidote against all poisons, and is capable of procuring to us and our kingdom other great advantages, such as the transmutation of other metals into real and fine gold and silver.'

"We frequently revolve in our mind, by long and serious meditation, how delectable and profitable it would be to us and our dominions, if this precious medicine could be discovered by the blessing of God on the labours of learned men; and also how that few or none, in former times, have attained to the true method of making this most glorious medicine, partly owing to the difficulties attending the operation, but chiefly because the most learned men have been, and still are discouraged and deterred from the undertaking, by the fear of incurring the penalties in a certain law made in the reign of our grandfather Henry IV. against alchymists.

"Wherefore it seems right and expedient to us to provide, select, and appoint certain ingenious men, sufficiently skilled in the natural sciences, well inclined and disposed to attempt the discovery of the aforesaid medicine, who fear God, love truth, and hate all deceitful, fallacious, metallic tinctures; and by our authority and prerogative royal to provide sufficiently for the quiet, safety, and indemnity of these men, that they may not be disturbed or injured in their persons or goods, while they are engaged in this work, or after they have finished their labours.

"We, therefore, confiding in the fidelity, circumspection, profound learning, and extraordinary skill in the natural sciences of these famous men, John Faunceby, John Kirkeby, and John Rayny, elect, assign, nominate, and license all and each of them, and of our certain knowledge, and by our authority and prerogative royal, we, by these presents, grant to all and each of them liberty, warrant,

power, and authority, to inquire, investigate, begin, prosecute, and perfect the foresaid medicine, according to their own discretion, and the precepts of ancient sages, as also to transubstantiate other metals into true gold and silver; the above statute, or any other statute, to the contrary notwithstanding. Further, we hereby take the said John, John, and John, with all their servants and assistants, under our special tuition and protection. This curious commission was confirmed by parliament 31st May, A.D. 1456."

*The Gambler's Dream.* 3 vols. Bull.

This is a clever book, belonging to a vicious and unnatural school. Were we among those who believe that the health of our literature receives any ultimate injury from the poison-venders who, from time to time, make their appearance in our markets, we might possibly take 'The Gambler's Dream' as the text for grave animadversion. But, in spite of the sibylline prognostications uttered by Coleridge some twenty years ago, (*vide* his review of 'Bertram,')—in spite of the lamentations of the Laureate so often as Byron chose to entrap and carry along with him the sympathies of all England, by a Parisina or Manfred,—we have satisfaction in believing that a moral purpose is more than ever manifest in our general literature, not only influencing English writers, but appreciated by English readers; and we are convinced that certain literary maladies are best cured by the homeopathic, or *le-alone* system. We shall, therefore, content ourselves with wishing the author of these volumes a better subject, when he next puts pen to paper: and with proving by an extract or two, that he has powers, which would fully justify him in quitting the service of *le néant*, (we cannot please ourselves with an English word,) and enlisting in that of truth and hopefulness.

In his dream, 'The Gambler' is transported, very naturally, to Crockford's wine-cellars, which, to his surprise, he finds swept and garnished for the reception of a supper-party. This party consists of seven evil spirits—only one of the number (let the gentler sex triumph!) being a lady.

This innocent coterie (like the Canterbury Pilgrims,) amuse themselves by tale-telling: each one having his own experiences to recount. With the four first we shall not trouble our readers, hoping that they have as little appetite as ourselves for *devilled* stories. But the fifth, the French tale, is more moderate and more moral. It relates the sufferings of a martyr to Transcendentalism, an amiable, innocent, middle-aged Frenchman, who, after many years of seclusion, returns to Paris, with the intent of there disseminating his doctrines of universal love, and the worship of the Beautiful. On the very moment of his arrival, he falls into the hands of swindlers, who are described with a humour which reminds us (at a distance) of Paul de Kock. Here is a full-length portrait of the gentleman of the fraternity:—

"M. Le Comte Auguste de la Haute Truandaille was a younger son of a noble family, who had dissipated his little patrimony very soon after he obtained possession, and had ever since lived upon his wits, as a 'chevalier d'industrie.' He was by no means a first-rater in his profession, never having duly served his apprenticeship, and was endowed with the will alone, and not the ability, to do much mischief. Yet he picked up a precarious livelihood, by prowling about in search of men more foolish than himself, and taking a range among small fry of every description.

"His efforts afforded him but a meagre subsistence. The morning light found him sleeping in a garret between two dirty sacks of straw, his wardrobe consisting of one light blue coat, with a prodigious velvet collar, one purple velvet waistcoat, one pair of mulberry cloth trousers, one pair of Wellington boots, with moveable spurs, whose virgin brass was innocent of assailing a horse's flank, one dirty flannel

dressing gown in which he slept, one coloured silk pocket handkerchief, three yards of black silk which constituted the cravat, and the before-mentioned imitation gold chains, which were displayed upon his person as a decoy to the unwary, like the copper gilding of a stale gingerbread cake.

"He was acquainted with a trick or two at cards, and could borrow money of a friend, his memory becoming longer or shorter, on the subject of repayment, in an inverse ratio with the amount, that is, he would sometimes refund a franc, but never a Napoleon. He displayed some address in making up to a novice or a stranger, and seldom missed an opportunity of secreting rings, watches, snuff-boxes, silk handkerchiefs, or loose money, in the apartments of his acquaintance, but was above picking pockets or shoplifting, and would endure any privation rather than commit such baseness, unworthy a scion of La Haute Truandaille.

"When fortunate in his pursuits, 'he lived and moved, and had his being' like a gentleman; when luckless and destitute, he cheerfully endured his garret, and his dinner chez la Garrenière, in the hope of better times. His resources were in the last stage of consumption, when he met the philosopher at the cheap and nasty Pension.

"He had on that very day risen from his miserable bed with the painful conviction that a franc and a half was the amount of his capital. He plunged his stockinged feet into his Wellington boots, pulled on the mulberry trousers, trimmed his beard and moustache into a 'farouche' shape with a small pair of scissors,—for he scorned a razor as well as a washerwoman, and had nought to do with soap in any way,—poured some oil on his fingers, and passed them through his hair, tossing the locks about like a haymaker with his pitchfork, washed his face and hands in a pitcher of cold water, like a nobleman as he was, wiped them with his silk pocket handkerchief, which he wrung and spread before the garret window to dry in the sun against the dinner hour, and made a miraculously successful arrangement, before a circular mirror three inches in diameter, of the black silk cravat, the waistcoat, the chains, and the light blue coat. He then put on his hat,—and carrying a dirty pair of kid gloves and a light cane in his hand, he locked the door upon the wet handkerchief and the dirty flannel dressing-gown, and sallied forth to the Boulevards. There the boots were cleaned, and the apparel brushed, for a couple of sous.

"I must be content with this for a breakfast," said he, as he thrust a lump of sugar into his mouth, which he had pocketed, chez la Garrenière, on a preceding day. A weary and fruitless round in search of fresh game at the Tuillerie Gardens, the 'porte cochère' of Meurice's Hotel, at the Palais Royal, with peep at the purse-pride English, in the reading-room of Galignani, filled up the time, till M. Le Comte Auguste de la Haute Truandaille returned to his apartment for his silk pocket handkerchief, and proceeded to eat a dinner at the Pension, which, while it cost the unconscious Mille Anges an écu, would satiate his grumbling intestines for one franc. He had consoled himself with the idea that the few remaining sous would enable him to while away the evening with a glass of 'eau sucre' and a cigar, and that he might postpone, till the next day, the cruel sacrifice of one of his neck-chains."

As might be expected, the confiding and self-engrossed philosopher is fleeced on every side, and laughed at as well as fleeced. Here is a glimpse of him, on a solitary occasion, when his lines have fallen in pleasanter places: he being the lion of a *soirée* given by Madame la Marquise de Coquelicot:—

"The rooms were full, and most of the well-bred people who filled them, pressed forward to have a good stare at the philosopher; but I am afraid the general feeling was disappointment, the common fate of all wonders.

"Is that an apostle?" said Mademoiselle A. to Madame B. "I really cannot say that I think much of him. I expected to have seen a majestic figure, half naked, covered with hair, with majestic features, a long beard, a head coiffée à la Brutus, dressed in a flowing robe, with sandals on his bare feet."

"Bare feet! oh shocking!" replied Madame B.

"I am sure our dear Marquise would never have countenanced that, if he had been St. Paul himself."

"But surely," whispered the Comtesse C., "he will not sit there all night; he will mount upon the ottoman, and discourse about love and beauty."

"Ah yes," said Mademoiselle F., "we have not yet heard the music of his voice, perhaps that will atone for his insignificant appearance. Why does not some adventurous person try to draw him out? Monsieur G., will you have the goodness to begin the attack?"

"Do, there is a good creature," said the Comtesse C.

"In obedience to your commands, ladies, I will," replied the gentleman, "but it is not an agreeable task. These 'savants' are sometimes great savages."

"He began. "Will Monsieur l'Apôtre de me the honour to take a pinch of snuff?" He held out his box in an affected manner.

"Much obliged," replied Mille Anges, who, as I have already said, detested affectation, "but I never take snuff. I am happy to say I have nothing to do with that horrid plant called tobacco in any shape. This was not very encouraging; Monsieur G. shrugged up his shoulders and retired.

"What did he say? What was it?" was buzzed about by twenty voices. "He says that he hasn't Heaven! he neither smokes nor takes snuff." "Thank Heaven! dear me, how odd!" and so on practised the prattlers."

There is pathos, and, we fear, truth, in the end of this history, which is, attempted suicide and consequent idiocy. As a mere work of art, the last tale, the adventures of Charlotte Panther, the female poacher, told by the "Gentleman in Black," is perhaps the cleverest, and its interest best kept up.

*Report from the Select Committee on the Record Commission, together with Minutes of Evidence, &c. Printed by order of the House of Commons.*

A Committee was appointed last Session to inquire into the Management and Affairs of the Record Commission, and the present state of the Records of the Kingdom. The Committee sat for nearly five months, examined seventy-nine persons, and offers this ponderous volume, of eleven hundred folio pages, as the result of its labours.

It may be well to premise, before we proceed further, that Parliament has long been sensible of the great importance of our legal and historical records—that, so far back as 1801, a Commission was appointed "to provide for their better arrangement and preservation"—that is little more than a quarter of a century the Commission contrived to expend upwards of three hundred thousand pounds; and the result was so unsatisfactory, that a new Commission was issued in 1831. The new Commission has, it appears, from the evidence before us, done little more, or little better, than the former. We mean, however, on this occasion to confine ourselves to proofs of the existing state of the records—the first and most important object for which the Commission was issued:—the character of the works published, the prices paid to editors, even publication itself, appearing to us matters wholly subordinate to the preservation of the Records. It is not a question of how much has been expended, but how much has been done, and done judiciously; and this will be best shown by collecting together evidence of the existing state of the Records.

In the first place, then, the Records of such great value in the administration of justice, and of such incalculable value as historical documents, instead of being collected together and deposited in some central, safe, and well-secured fire-proof building, under the responsible control of proper and efficient officers—responsible not only in character, but in fortune, for their safe custody,—instead of being carefully sorted and arranged—research—places not casualties at all, have the wrong remain for from dam expended "expenditure": laid forth in ev

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and arranged, with sufficient indexes to facilitate research—are scattered all over London, in places notoriously unsafe, subject to all possible casualties of loss—some of them not in custody at all, having been left, by accident it appears, at the wrong office, where they have been allowed to remain for years; and many are daily perishing from damp, dirt, and vermin. This may seem incredible, after such a sum of money has been expended for their "arrangement and preservation": let us then proceed to the facts set forth in evidence.

Some of the most valuable Records deposited at the Tower are, it appears, over a gunpowder magazine, and contiguous to a steam-engine in daily operation. In 1832, says Mr. Cooper, the Board addressed a letter to the Duke of Wellington, as Constable of the Tower, suggesting the removal of the gunpowder. His Grace, we suspect, loves a joke; his reply is inimitable—"If the Commissioners should think that the gunpowder was exposed to any danger they should apply to the Master General of the Ordnance."

The Records in the Rolls Chapel, the great depository of Chancery Records, appear to be in good methodical order; but Lord Langdale states, "they are not in a situation in which Records ought to be kept—they seemed, at least some of them, to be exposed to considerable variations of temperature." "The Rolls Chapel," says Lord Lyndhurst, "is a very bad place of deposit." The state of these valuable Records may be inferred from what is stated by Mr. Grimaldi:—"I wanted (he observes) to search for a Record, and the clerk said it was such dirty work it was not fit for any one but a coal-heaver; they would not let me do it; but they said they would put on some dirty clothes after office hours, and that it might take them two or three days, and they would doubtless have to make heavy charges for it." And Mr. Hardy, being thereupon asked his opinion, affirmed that this state of the Records has remained to the present time unchanged. "A search (he observes) lately occupied me a long time, and I found the bundles in question in most filthy and disgraceful state, fully justifying the description of the last witness." A practice, it appears, exists in this office of pasting Records into volumes, and of detaching them by damping when required for use. We need not stop to point out the mischievous effects of such a practice. We may here add, that it is also a practice, as stated by Sir Harris Nicolas, in this or other offices, to throw a composition over such parts of a Record as are apparently illegible, which has the effect of restoring the ink for the moment, although it afterwards turns the parchment perfectly black.

The Records of the late Clerk of the Pipe and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer of the Exchequer, are deposited in vaults, two stories underground, at Somerset House. The Pipe Rolls are considered to be the most splendid series of rolls which any nation possesses. It may, therefore, be interesting to the curious in such matters to know, that it was admitted by Mr. Paxton, one of the clerks in the late office, that the vaults where they are deposited are so completely dark that it is almost impossible for any person to find his way out of them—that these vaults are described by Mr. Hardy as very damp and unwholesome—"I should think (he says) dangerous to health;" and that it appears by the Report, that "Members of the Committee observed various mineral formations in these vaults; stalagnites and stalactites." The Crown Leases there deposited are wholly unarranged; the clerks, in case of search, being required to look through the whole of them before they can

make out whether the information required exists there at all.

The Records of the Treasury of the Exchequer are deposited in the Chapter House at Westminster. The state of insecurity of this building has been repeatedly represented. The vaults underneath are said to be filled with spirituous liquors—brewhouses and washhouses are attached to the building. The great danger to which these Records are exposed from fire is universally admitted. The majority of the Records here preserved, both legal and historical, are of immense value; yet many of them have been exceedingly injured by damp, dirt, and neglect: some are crumbling into dust. In their present state, says Sir Francis Palgrave, (the keeper,) "the great majority can neither be preserved nor arranged, nor even consulted;" and he observes, either the country must make the needful expenditure for having them cleaned, repaired and bound, or abandon them to decay and destruction. Sir Francis produced a mass of Records in a state of actual fusion. We wish Sir Francis had given us a more definite idea of what is the amount of "needful expenditure" to preserve all the Records; nearly half a million of money having already been expended; and here before us, is the Report of their present state.

The rooms of the Augmentation Office and other public depositories, are, according to Mr. Protheroe, "surrounded with fires." When the Parliament houses were burnt, these Records were removed as circumstances permitted, many being thrown out of the windows; it was better, says Mr. Protheroe, that they should be thrown into the gutter than burnt. The same gentleman describes the state of these apartments when he visited them in 1833, as in "a very filthy state, dirty as a chimney-sweeper's room;" and the Committee examined "the Conventional Leases from which Mr. Cayley (the former keeper,) had cut the seals." This gentleman, it further appears, was in the habit of removing the Records to his own house at Spa Fields, "where they suffered severely from the most careless treatment." Under these circumstances it is not very extraordinary, that many Records have been embezzled.

The Records of the Duchy of Lancaster Office are deposited in a building of which part is used as private dwelling-house, and are consequently exposed to accidents by fire. In regard to the state of confusion in which the Records of the Pell Office were before their recent removal, Mr. Cooper says, "alongside an Issue Roll of John, I found Lord Denman's Patent of Peerage." The Records of the King's Bench, the Committee are of opinion, have been, at the suggestion of the Commission, removed to an unsuitable repository. Lord Lyndhurst says, "an apron full" was, it appeared, purchased of one labourer for five shillings—and I know, says Mr. Cole, that "the master builder employed on the occasion, at one period possessed a very considerable collection of seals, charters, and other documents, found in the old building." It was probably the Records "once possessed" by this master builder, which were sold about three years ago, when Sir Thomas Phillips gave for one the sum of 110*l.*, for another 73*l.* 10*s.*, and the British Museum also bought several; two at the price of 51*l.* 12*s.* each. On the coronation of his present Majesty further change was unavoidable; and in 1831 these records were again removed to the King's Mews, when, "amongst other accidents, it happened that the very Records arranged and published by the Commissioners in 1801, namely—the Nonce Rolls, and the *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, were actually dispersed. Thus the Records which had been once arranged and printed at the public expense, were thrown again into confusion."

We may here observe, that other Records are

in fact, says the keeper, they were in some order, but, from frequent removal, they are become completely disarranged.

But the state of the Records of the King's Remembrancer's Office would be amusing, if it were not melancholy from its mischievous consequences. "The migrations of these Records," says the Secretary, "have cost what would have sufficed to erect an excellent General Record Office."

It is, we suppose, to these Records that Mr. Cole alludes in the following evidence:—

"The Commissioners, in their Report in 1812, congratulate themselves that some orders have been 'provided for the more regular keeping of the records' by the Barons of the Court of Exchequer; but the complete inefficiency of those orders, and the way in which they have been treated by the office, is exceedingly remarkable in every point of view. One of the orders is, that the 'court-keeper do not deliver out the keys of the record rooms to any person whatever except to one of the clerks in court, accompanied by the bag-bearer.' Now it happens that the court-keeper has no keys to deliver, or if he has, he does not deliver them; and that the person who keeps the keys is the bag-bearer, and not even the side-clerk, to whom the Barons order that the keys be delivered. Another order is that the bag-bearer should not make 'any search without the presence of a clerk in court'; but a contrary practice must be well known to every person who has had occasion to make the slightest search in these records; the majority of searches are made by the bag-bearer alone. Another order is, that 'a public book should be deposited in one of the record rooms, in which the title of every record removed out of the record rooms, shall be entered by the clerk in court who removes the same'; there is no book kept to the best of my belief, and every record is removed according to the pleasure of the bag-bearer of the court. The fifth order is, 'that they do not place any records in any press in the record rooms under lock and key.' The fact is that both secondaries of the office keep each a press in the stone tower under lock and key, and do not admit the public to have any access to the records deposited in those presses without payment of some additional fee."

These Records were ejected from their ancient depositories when the old buildings were pulled down to make room for the new Courts of Law, in 1822. No receptacle having been formed for them, they were removed into a temporary shed erected in Westminster Hall—without superintendence, says Mr. Vincent, without any orders to ensure the removal being diligently or even honestly performed—in sacks, in the hands and on the shoulders of labourers, no person in authority in the slightest degree directing or looking to their preservation. There appears to be little doubt that, on that occasion, "large quantities of parchment were purloined by the labourers employed, and sold to the glue-manufacturers"—"an apron full" was, it appeared,

and I know, says Mr. Cole, that "the master builder employed on the occasion, at one period possessed a very considerable collection of seals, charters, and other documents, found in the old building." It was probably the Records "once possessed" by this master builder, which were sold about three years ago, when Sir Thomas Phillips gave for one the sum of 110*l.*, for another 73*l.* 10*s.*, and the British Museum also bought several; two at the price of 51*l.* 12*s.* each. On the coronation of his present Majesty further change was unavoidable; and in 1831 these records were again removed to the King's Mews, when, "amongst other accidents, it happened that the very Records arranged and published by the Commissioners in 1801, namely—the Nonce Rolls, and the *Inquisitiones Nonarum*, were actually dispersed. Thus the Records which had been once arranged and printed at the public expense, were thrown again into confusion."

We may here observe, that other Records are

still preserved in two cells on the ground floor, in the western tower of Westminster Hall. "The nature of these," says Mr. Protheroe, "is but partially known"—"the nature of which," says Mr. Vincent, "none can tell":—they are only to be seen, indeed, by the light of an "un-glazed" lancet window.

In 1833 Mr. Cole was appointed to examine these Records. Here is his report of the state in which he found them.

The great bulk of those regarded as Miscellaneous Records, which comprised records of all periods from Rich. 1. to Geo. 4., were heaped together in two large sheds or bins in the King's Mews. The dimensions of the larger of these sheds were 14 feet in height, 14 feet in width, and 16 feet in depth; of the smaller, the dimensions were 10 feet in height, 5 feet in width, and 16 feet in depth. In these sheds 4,136 cubic feet of national records were deposited in the most neglected condition, besides the accumulated dust of centuries. All, when these operations commenced, were found to be very damp; some were in a state of inseparable adhesion to the stone walls; there were numerous fragments which had only just escaped entire consumption by vermin; and many were in the last stage of putrefaction. Decay and damp had rendered a large quantity so fragile, as hardly to admit of being touched; others, particularly those in the form of rolls, were so coagulated together, that they could not be uncoiled. Six or seven perfect skeletons of rats were found imbedded, and bones of these vermin were generally distributed throughout the mass; and, besides furnishing a charnel-house for the dead during the first removal of these national records, a dog was employed in hunting the live rats, which were thus disturbed from their nests. It was impossible to prosecute any measure of assorting whilst the records remained in this position; indeed, a slow process of selecting or separating any portions could not have been endured, even by the greatest physical strength, or the greatest stock of patience. The first step taken was to divide the mass into small and approachable portions; accordingly, three Irish labourers, besides superintending assistance, together with the dog aforesaid, were employed, during a fortnight, in removing this deposit of national records, and placing it in sacks; and nothing but strong stimulants sustained the men in working amongst such a mass of putrid filth, stench, dirt, and decomposition. In this removal not less than 24 bushels of dust and the most minute particles of parchment and paper were collected; 500 sacks of national records were filled from these sheds, each sack containing eight bushels; so that from this locality alone 4,000 bushels of every species of record were obtained. From various other parts of the King's Mews about 800 bushels of records were collected.

With this exposition we are content to conclude—only repeating that Commissions have now been in existence since 1801, for the express purpose, as set forth, "to provide for the better arrangement and preservation of the Records of the Kingdom"—that the said Commission or Commissions, in furtherance of these objects, have expended little short of *half a million of the public money!* and here is a Report of the present state and condition of certain most valuable Records in the year 1833—that is to say, after the Commission had been 32 years in operation. Of course, the Commissioners were unpaid—and of course "His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Right Hon. Lord Brougham and Vaux, Lord High Chancellor," and so on, including all the great and over-worked Ministers in office, were among the Commissioners.

*Journey round the Earth, through North Asia, the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans—[Reise um die Erde, &c.]* By Adolph Erman.

[Second Notice.]

WHILE recently following our author's track through countries now enjoying the genial spring-tide of civilization, and where, in conformity with the intimation of classical mythology, Vulcan is the founder of arts and industry, we almost

forgot that we were travelling in company with the distinguished philosopher, Professor Hansteen. He, however, was not inattentive to the specific objects of his journey; but before reaching Yekaterinburg, the chief town in the Uralian Mountains, he had accurately observed in thirty places the chief elements of the phenomena of terrestrial magnetism—viz. the declination, dip, and intensity of the directive force of the needle. We take this opportunity of calling our readers' attention to the valuable labours of Professor Hansteen, but to enter into a full exposition or discussion of them here would lead us beyond our just limits. Our author has devoted a separate work, of which one volume, containing his astronomical observations, is already published, to the philosophical results of his journey, and has, therefore, judiciously omitted in the narrative now before us all description of his apparatus and methods of observation. This circumstance alone would be sufficient to justify the silence of a cautious critic; and we must confess our suspicions, that hitherto general conclusions have been prematurely drawn from the phenomena of terrestrial magnetism, while the various anomalies and local disturbances of magnetic polarity still remain imperfectly studied, and enter into the observations of the general magnetic elements as so many causes of error. Furthermore, we must candidly acknowledge that we do not repose entire confidence in the philosophical discernment of M. Erman, whose series of observations on what he calls mean temperature, is a laborious proof of a singular and persevering misconception of his subject. Under these circumstances, we shall deal briefly, on the present occasion, with Professor Hansteen's magnetic observations, and merely announce that they apparently confirm, in the completest manner, the Professor's pre-conceived theory of two magnetic poles in the northern hemisphere—viz. one in North America, the position of which has been since ascertained by Capt. James Ross, with a precision contrasting very oddly with the looseness of surrounding indications; and another in the north-east of Siberia. The intensity of the magnetic force increased rapidly with the progress eastward from Perm, indicating an approach to the magnetic pole or centre of attraction; and at Tobolsk it exceeded that observed by Capt. Sabine at Spitzbergen; a clear proof that Boothia Felix, notwithstanding its boastful epithet, is not without a powerful rival in attractions even within the Hyperborean regions.

Perm, the capital of the province or government in which the mines of the Ural are situated, occupies a romantic situation on the banks of the swift-flowing Kama. Its well-built wooden houses, handsomely painted outside, and separated from the street by a strong wooden fence, bespeak the easy or even opulent circumstances of its inhabitants. Like the other newly-risen towns in Eastern Russia, its whole appearance suggests a comparison with the contemporary settlements in Canada and the United States. The latter have the advantage of a population more homogeneous, more free, and more civilized, and their social development is therefore impelled by a greater moral energy; but in natural resources the towns of the Ural seem to have a great superiority, and though not increasing with the miraculous rapidity witnessed in the United States, they are nevertheless all prosperous. The discovery of some copper ore, and the consequent erection of a furnace on the banks of the Kama in 1780, led to the first foundation of Perm, which, however, owes its present importance rather to the official authority concentrated in it, than to its copper-mines.

The traveller from Perm to Yekaterinburg, anxiously watching for the chain of mountains

which separates the continent of Europe from that of Asia, is not a little chagrined to find it dwindle to a succession of low hills, not above 200 or 300 feet above the surrounding plains, and to perceive that a most important geographical division is effected, not by a conspicuous land-mark formed by nature suitable to the grandeur of its object, but by a line in a great measure arbitrary traced along the division of the waters. A moderate ascent for two miles beyond the village of Bilibayevsk conducts to the summit of the ridge, or the highest point of the pass between the two continents, which has an elevation of 1,600 feet above the sea. The highest points of the hills visible on both sides are covered with pine trees, and can scarcely exceed the absolute height of 2,000 feet. None of them retain any snow in summer. Yekaterinburg, five and twenty miles eastward of the pass, is still 800 feet above the sea. This town presents in a remarkable manner the appearance of comfort and thriving industry. Many of its houses would be deemed ornamental in the handsomest towns in Europe; yet the great majority of its inhabitants are serfs, whose annual remittances of tribute to their owners amount to princely revenues. Among the branches of industry carried on at Yekaterinburg, that which forces itself most on the attention of strangers, is the cutting and engraving of precious stones. Amethysts, topazes, and tourmalines, with quartz crystals frequently of unusual magnitude, are here cut and polished with great skill, and then elegantly, though ponderously, set in the gold of the country. Besides the great abundance of gems found in the neighbouring districts, many are brought from all parts of Siberia; and the trade of the lapidary, who is as well acquainted with Oriental as with European mottoes and devices, is here carried on in the most extensive manner possible.

Our travellers had perfectly ascertained the law explanatory of the relations of the magnetic phenomena, observed uniformly in their journey eastward. But a change of route was desirable in order to obtain a new series of relations; and as, in proceeding northward, it was anticipated that a more rapid change would take place in the declination, they gladly embraced an opportunity of making a trip to Neviansk, Tagil, and the other mines in the northern districts of the Ural. The first-named of these places belongs to the Yakokle family, having been bequeathed to them by Nikiti Demidof, whose lineal descendants still possess Tagilsk, and some other mines, with an immense territory. Of the constitution of these mining districts, our author gives the following account:—

The extraordinary enrichment of the first possessors of mines in the Ural, and the sudden rise of a great number of establishments there on a great scale, took place at the time when Peter the Great conceded to his subjects perfect liberty in all that regarded mining. Lands, woods, and people were irrevocably assigned by the government to whom demanded them, specifically with a view to the production of metals; the crown reserving only the right to recall those grants when they seemed no longer capable of serving the end in view—viz. the production of the precious or useful metals. While the possessors were forbidden to employ the serfs allotted to them wholly in agriculture, or to engage the resources of their estates in speculations foreign from the working of the mines, they were quite at liberty to mortgage, or even alienate them, so long as the mines were worked with reasonable activity.

This system, profitable alike for individuals and the state, continued unaltered for a long time, till the Empress Catharine endeavoured to force the immediate control and partial principle of a central government into every branch of business. The superintendence of the private mines, as well as of those belonging to the state, was then committed to the provincial authorities. These, often wholly un-

acquainted with the country, were frequently liable to animosities, and practically did not know the use of the produce.

It was high time, I, that so far as riches, as were being actualized, emanated from the authorities; management joined not to the possession of private property. Mountains a remarkable dependent state.

The proprietors rarely visit the country, found the country richly furnished, the days of feasting as being allowed, entertainments, overseers a part of the all serfs, as of these earliest mountains constructed by taken prisoner.

The miners a circuit of Demidof's wholly managed or personal district yielding gold and silver at Tagilsk and treasures of furnaces once 14,000, which the art of has been

The value of Demidof's extent of which are their colonies.

On the to 5,000 square trees stand these dark, being little settlers, in the country perpetual.

Passing formerly stones, or an endless travellers 250 miles into the Ural, station with 7,000 feet a disconti- feet. But Ural, the rian vegetation regions of temperature. Places have summit on

acquainted with the business of mining, were peculiarly liable to the contagion of private feuds and animosities; and as their vexatious interference practically did away with the proprietor's freedom in the use of his property, a considerable diminution in the produce of the mines was the consequence.

It was highly to the credit of the Emperor Paul I., that so far as regarded the production of mineral riches, as well as for other branches of the administration, he returned to the ordinances of Peter I., being actuated by a general partiality for whatever emanated from his distinguished predecessor. The mining operations of private individuals were again guaranteed from the arbitrary interference of public authorities; and the officers intrusted with the management of the imperial mines, were strictly enjoined not to encroach on or meddle with the works of private speculators. Such is the footing on which the possessions of private individuals in the Uralian Mountains at present stand, and which gives them in a remarkable degree the character of small independent states.

The proprietors of these princely estates rarely visit them at the present day. Our author found the castle of the Yakoklefs, at Nevyansk, richly furnished in the antique Dutch fashion of the days of Peter the Great. He was well feasted as well as lodged in it; a liberal sum being allowed to the steward expressly for the entertainment of respectable travellers. The overseers and directors of the mines here, on the part of the various branches of the family, were all serfs, as well as the great bulk of the population, —10,000 in number. A great proportion of these are the descendants of exiles. The earliest mining works at Nevyansk were constructed by a body of the unfortunate Swedes taken prisoners at the battle of Pultawa.

The mines of Tagilsk, with seven others within

a circuit of thirty miles, all belonging to the Demidof family, are, like those of Nevyansk, wholly managed by serfs, without any immediate or personal interference of the owners. This

district yields copper as well as iron, and also gold and platina. The magnitude of the works at Tagilsk corresponds with the boundless mineral treasures of the surrounding country; the roasting furnaces being large enough to contain at

once 14,000 tons of ore. The perfection to

which the manufacturers at Tagilsk have carried the art of ornamenting and lacerking their wares, has been alluded to in our preceding number.

The value of the mineral veins possessed by the Demidofs is much enhanced by the immense extent of forest included in their estates, and which are adequate to feed the blazing fires of

their colossal furnaces for many ages to come. On the territory belonging to their mines are

5,000 square miles of pine forest, in which the trees stand so close together that the woodman has scarcely room to wield his axe. Within

these dark forests the elk roams securely, and being little disturbed by the industrious Russian settlers, he here attains a much greater size than in the countries farther northward, where he is perpetually chased by the hunting tribes.

Passing by the mountains of Blagodat, which formerly furnished Western Europe with load-

stones, or strong natural magnets, and inspecting

an endless variety of furnaces and forges, our

travellers at length reached Bogoslovsk, about

250 miles north of Yekaterinburg. On enter-

ing the Uralian mountains, the arborescent vegeta-

tion which clothes the Alps from 4,000 to

7,000 feet above the sea, again re-appears after

a discontinuance of so many hundred miles, commencing at an absolute height of about 800

feet. But in advancing northward through the

Ural, the superior vigour and freshness of Sibe-

rian vegetation compared with that of those

regions of Europe enjoying corresponding mean

temperatures, strike more forcibly at every step.

Places having the mean temperature of the

summit of the Brocken are clad, not with stunted

firs, but with pine woods of the most luxuriant growth, and even produce barley. At Bogoslovsk, in 60° N. lat., and about 900 feet above the sea, it is found impossible to cultivate the turnip or the cabbage, the favourite vegetables of the Russians; but the pine forests and wild flowers strewed around betray nothing of an increasing rigour of climate. Here our travellers reached the vicinity of the Woguls, who have continually retired northward as the Russians have occupied the Ural.

The Woguls change their dwellings; but apparently with view to spare the game, they change much less frequently than many tribes of Eastern Siberia. They never join more than five *Yurts*, or huts, in one station; and lest the wild animals should be frightened away by the smoke, these stations are not allowed to be fixed nearer than within ten miles of one another. Rein-deer constitute their whole stock; and even in summer they yoke these in sledges to cross the level country; but the winter is almost exclusively their season of labour, of travelling, and collecting. It is then that they are busily occupied in the chase of the fur-animals, and in the trade arising out of it with the Samoyeds, Ostyaks, and Russians. The annual migrations, or trading excursions eastwards, through the country north of Bogoslovsk, are very remarkable; for the European Samoyeds travel in winter across the Ural, and while their eastern neighbours and the Woguls, dwelling to the south of their route, all move in the same direction, they drive often 400 miles, as far as Obdorsk, to barter in February the produce of their chase for Russian bread. The Woguls, during the summer months, give themselves up to a lazy repose, after the activity of winter, and as the smoke protects them from the flies, they scarcely ever leave their tents; in short, they seem to fall into a summer sleep, retaining just animation enough to digest their winter feasts.

On the produce of the Uralian mines, our author has the following observations:—

In quantity as well as in financial importance, the iron undoubtedly far surpasses the other metallic produce of the country. There is annually fabricated the enormous quantity of 7,400,000 poods (132,000 tons) of iron; of which quantity four-sevenths are consumed by the inhabitants of European Russia, two-sevenths by those of the Asiatic division of the empire, and one-seventh is exported to the south and south-west. As the total population of the Russian empire is estimated to be about 53 millions, we are justified in supposing that, the inhabitants of contiguous countries included, not above 70 millions of men divide among them annually the above-mentioned quantity of metal; whence we arrive at the surprising conclusion that in that quarter of the earth, every individual consumes annually above 4 pounds of iron. If the quantity of iron annually produced in the Ural were united into one mass, it would form a ball of only 50 feet diameter; and supposing the ore to have five times the bulk of the metal which it yields, the consumption of 100 years would yet reduce the Ural only by a spherical mass of 403 feet in diameter. From this point of view we see in a striking manner the littleness of human labours; for the ore consumed in 100 years falls greatly short of the rich mass of the hill of Blagodat alone, where it rises from the plain near Kushva; and many centuries must roll over, before the superficial ores near the Uralian mines, now in operation, can be entirely exhausted.

It is very natural in our author to contemplate with admiration the enormous quantity of iron annually produced in the Ural, and consumed by the surrounding population. But how much more is it a matter of admiration, that this country should produce annually five times the quantity of iron produced in the Ural, (in 1830, 653,000 tons, probably much below the production at the present day,) and that this amazing development of the energies of industry should be almost wholly the growth of the last fifty years! The iron exported from Great Britain (140,000 tons, exclusive of 16,000 tons of cutlery and hardware,) alone exceeds the whole produce

of the Ural; and after this immense exportation, there still remain for the annual consumption of the inhabitants of the British Isles 40 pounds of iron for each individual! The Uralian copper-mines yield about 3,500 tons of metal yearly; those of Cornwall above 11,000 tons. The gross value of the platina and gold found in the Ural nearly equals that of the iron; and the total annual production of that celebrated region may be valued at about a million and a half sterling.

The gold and platina of the Ural are sent by land to St. Petersburg. The iron and copper, committed to all the hazards of an intricate navigation, are conveyed down the Ufa and Kama rivers into the Volga, and thence to St. Petersburg, a distance of 1,800 miles; or following the tortuous course of the rivers, of not less than 3,300 miles. A considerable portion of the iron is transported by a short portage from the Volga to the Don, and so reaches Taganrog, for the Turkish market. To this circumstance it is owing that the miners of the Ural have some knowledge of the Turks, whom they always designate *a well-bred people*; while of the Greeks, on the other hand, they have but a mean opinion. Of the Bashkirs, whose tents extend to the southern limit of the Russian settlements in the Ural, M. Erman gives the following picture:—

None of the aboriginal Siberian tribes exhibit so distinctly as the Bashkirs, on the frontiers of Perm and Orenburg, the interesting phenomenon of an annual transition from a sedentary to a nomadic life. For each tribe of the nation fixes itself during the winter in a cantonment of wooden houses, which it erects always on the borders of some wood; but as soon as spring appears, away they go to the grassy plains with their horses and flocks of sheep. Each family has its tent of felt, which, rolled up, is easily hung to the saddle. In summer the tribes unite, and they wander in large bodies, keeping their encampments close together. The Bashkirs may be almost said to live on horseback. Unwearied and skilful in all that pertains to horsemanship, they are dull and lazy in everything else.... The Russians, who have had some experience of the Bashkirs' mode of living, extol not only the flavour of the sour mare's milk, but also the extraordinary benefits which result from it to the constitution. Those in the vicinity of the Bashkir cantonments often grow so much attached to that beverage, that they cannot do without it; nay, sometimes delicate persons pass over to the Bashkirs for the benefit of their health, and are quite restored by a summer's wandering. We afterwards learned from the Kirgises that they ascribe their general good health chiefly to the constant use of fat mutton; and if their opinion be well founded, it serves to explain the healthiness of the Bashkirs, who are great mutton-eaters. In their summer tents, the pot filled with mutton is always on the fire, and its contents are readily shared with every stranger who enters.

We grieve that our author, who quotes largely from Herodotus, should never have thought of sheltering his peculiar notions under the authority of Homer. He would have been delighted on reading the address of Glaucus to Sarpedon, in the Iliad, to find there the warmest praises of fat mutton, which the Lycian hero considered a specific for valour, or, in other words, as creating a stomach for war. The Bashkirs give their children the fat tails of their large sheep to suck, by way of a prophylactic diet, as our author imagines, who puzzles exceedingly over the digestion of so much fat; but to us it appears that the only sickness from which the urchins really obtain an exemption by their gastronomic education, is that which their unctuous fare would infallibly inflict on less practised gourmands. In short, without having the least desire to disparage the virtues of prime mutton, we cannot help believing that the careless or even joyous life of the Bashkir on horseback, with abundance of wholesome food, is a sufficient explanation of his freedom from disease. In fact,

when quitting the plains, and retiring to their winter quarters, the Bashkirs invariably suffer an attack of melancholy, which manifests itself in an outburst of superstition. The men remain on horseback at a little distance from their village, while the women, provided with sticks, beat furiously the walls and doors of the wooden cabins, in order to drive the evil spirits out of those dark abodes. This noisy exorcism lasts some time, until, at length, it being presumed that the evil spirits must have yielded to an uproar which the best could not support, the men alight and enter their habitations.

The Bashkirs are among the most expert falconers of the Tatarian plains. They teach their small falcons to descend on hares, while a larger kind, called by them Berkuti, is trained to kill foxes, and even wolves. They rear and train those birds in considerable numbers, not for their own use, but to sell them to the Kirghises, and other wandering nations of the steppes.

But it is time for us to be off to Tobolsk. The Russians have still some of the wild blood of the Bashkirs in them. This is manifest from the expansion of their spirits and the fire which animates them in the company of horses. The loud-cracking whip is the invention of a degenerate race,—the postillions of the West. The Russian Yamshchik, or driver, makes abundance of noise, but he makes it all with his voice. He talks incessantly to his horses in the earnest and friendly language of kinsman. A mare he calls "good woman," a tired horse "my old man"; he sometimes calls them "my doves." He exhorts them to be alert; not to linger on a short bit of a journey, but to bound from hill to hill without a moment's delay. Throughout Siberia the same custom prevails of impelling the steed by eloquence alone, despite the Horatian maxim "Sed equi frænato est auris in ore"; but the Tatar is less copious in his language than the Russian, and only cries impetuously from time to time, "Aida," (Away!) But it must be observed, that the rapid driving, for which the Russian couriers are so celebrated, on light wooden vehicles without springs, and over the roughest log roads, generally proves fatal to them in a few years, producing spinal disease and impaired understanding. Hence the springless light carts are very properly styled by the Russians, *back-breakers*.

The white houses and church towers of Tobolsk are visible from a great distance, ranged along the summit of a steep ridge, which rises considerably above the surrounding naked plains. At the foot of the steep rolls the broad Irtish, and as it bends from westward to northward receives the Tobol opposite the town. The numerous exiles annually sent into Siberia (about 5,000 on an average,) regard the crossing of the Irtish as the stroke which completes their political extinction. But there are others who hurry over this Siberian Styx with very different feelings. All Russian officers, civil or military, who volunteer to serve in Siberia, are entitled to promotion by three years' service beyond the Irtish; many seek professional advancement by this voluntary exile, but few ever prolong their stay beyond the time required.

Of the exiles, those condemned for political offences, and belonging to the upper classes of society, are usually sent to towns situated far to the north or east of Siberia, where, owing to their strong nationality, being unable to accommodate themselves to the simple manners of the country, they endure a miserable existence. The difficulty of keeping horses, or of riding them in a country of snows and morasses, is a frequent ground of their complaints. The exiles (or unfortunates, as they are compassionately styled in Siberia) residing in Tobolsk are mostly persons convicted of embezzlement, or other acts of dis-

honesty. They are in general free from all kind of surveillance, but some of them are bound to perform certain religious penances in the churches; and many more do the same thing voluntarily. Offenders of the worst stamp are often condemned to hard labour in the mines of Nerchinsk for one or more years, and having completed the period of their severe punishment, are allowed to reside in Tobolsk; but, generally speaking, the Siberian exiles of the labouring classes are in the situation of settlers enjoying full liberty to make the most of their industry. Their exile puts an end to their vassalage, (for the great majority of them are originally serfs,) and makes them independent men. To this grand change in their condition, and the moral sense to which it gives birth, must be chiefly ascribed the revolution which takes place in their character; for in their new country, the *Unfortunate* turn out for the most part exemplary men, and rarely fail to procure by their exertions a comfortable independence.

Tobolsk, though its name has an ill-omened sound to European ears, is not without an equitable share of luxuries and enjoyments. The abundance and variety of wild fowls in its markets are nowhere to be equalled; while the fisheries of the Obi on the one side, and the herds and flocks of the pastoral tribes on the other, yield it their respective supplies at the cheapest rate. Fowling is not a fashionable pastime at Tobolsk, (probably from want of game laws,) but it is the profitable occupation of many of the inhabitants. Pheasants, partridges, woodcocks, ptarmigans, and other species of feathered game less known in Europe, and to be named correctly only by an experienced ornithologist, are plentiful even in the immediate vicinity of the town. In fact, the tables of all classes in this Siberian capital are loaded with a great variety of those rarities and dainties which in other countries are reserved wholly for the banquets of the rich.

The swan can be but rarely obtained for the table here, except in the salted state, and is, therefore, but little thought of; it is obtained from the Russian settlers on the banks of the Irtish and Obi. In the autumn these people stretch long nets parallel to the stream, and overhanging its sedgy margin; then on cloudy days, embarking on the river, they drive the innumerable wild fowl into their toils. The game thus obtained they throw into large pits, carelessly covered over, to which they have recourse from time to time during the winter, seldom giving up their visits to the store till its contents are thoroughly putrescent. A few of the more provident and pains-taking of the rude sportsmen, salt the best birds for the markets of the distant towns. The winter migration of swans, geese, ducks, and other aquatic birds from the Frozen Ocean to the shores of the Caspian Sea, the Sea of Aral, and the numerous small lakes scattered over the steppes to the north of these, annually peoples with myriads of flocks every well sheltered standing water in the intermediate distance. It is owing to these visitants, that in the marshy tract between the Ural and Tobolsk so many villages have names beginning with *lèbedi* (a swan), and *gùsi* (a goose), as if we should say Swanham and Gooseham. From these marshes Tobolsk receives the eggs of wild fowl in boundless plenty; but those northern Sybarites, its inhabitants, do not on that account forego the comfort of domestic poultry, which in some houses are indulgently admitted during the winter to the warmed apartments.

The capital of Western Siberia is sufficiently supplied with European goods: our author found London porter there; but its chief stock of manufactured articles, woollen and cotton cloths, silk stuffs, and the like, is drawn from China.

This preference of Chinese manufactures is partly due to their cheapness, partly to the skill with which the vigilant Chinese merchant adapts his assortment to the wants of the country. It is worthy of remark, that from Kiachta, on the frontiers of Chinese Tatar, to Tobolsk, the rich alone find it expedient to travel in a sledge, the whole distance, with the exception of about six miles, being navigable by the branches of the Angara, Yenisei, and Obi. The tediousness of so long and circuitous a navigation (for the distance from Kiachta to Tobolsk, along the course of the connecting rivers, cannot be less than 8000 miles,) is counterbalanced by the profits of the trade carried on with the Siberian tribes dwelling on the banks of the streams.

Tobolsk has some direct commerce with Tashkend, and through it with the other Khanats, or principalities of Turkestan. Formerly caravans of some thousand camels used to arrive annually at Omsk, Petropavlovsk, Orenburg, and other frontier towns of Western Siberia. But now-days, the dried fruits of Bokhara, the rich shawls, raw cotton, and other produce of the southern countries, are carried direct to Nijnei Novgorod, in the heart of Russia. Still, however, small caravans occasionally travel southwards from the Siberian frontier, taking with them otter and seal skins, linen, and iron in bars. The merchants, chiefly Tatars, though now and then Russian ventures to accompany them, assemble at Semiyarsk, near the source of the Irtish, about 600 miles S.E. of Tobolsk. They usually start in May, while the pools and sluggish streams in the desert are not as yet completely dried up.

From Semiyarsk to Tashkend they reckon two months' journey. The first 200 miles of the route lies over a wild and hilly country, till the last ridges are crossed of the Karkaralui Mountains, which are thickly covered with fir, willow, and black poplar. The dense thickets of these mountains are haunted by bears and wild boars, which latter multiplying in the tall reeds that overgrow the wasted rivers of the steppes, spread a long way northwards into Siberia. On leaving these mountains, the travellers bid farewell to the forests of the north, and see no more trees till they reach Tashkend. After a further march, indeed, of 300 miles over the sandy plains, very justly styled *bitpak*, or "good-for-nothing," they meet with a species of tamarisk, the sight of which always makes a glad impression on the northern traveller, as it announces the commencement of a new vegetable world and the approach to a more cheerful and verdant region. But before reaching the limits of the tamarisk, they have to cross the River Chul, the only river of the steppes, which, owing to the suddenness and impetuosity of its floods, cannot be at all times crossed in safety. The beasts of burden and merchandise are carried over this river, which is only seventy feet wide, on rafts made of reeds, bundled and tied together. The forest of tall reeds which line the banks, conceals the lairs of numerous tigers, ounces, and other species of the feline tribe. The chase of these animals is the favourite sport of the Kirghises, who are themselves far more formidable to the traveller than the wild beasts which they pursue.

The caravan, having reached the tamarisk, begins to ascend the mountain of Karatau, from the summit of which are described the Alatau Mountains, and the country of Tashkend. The difficulties of the journey are now over, so far as regards the want of water and of fodder for the cattle. The horses employed in these journeys—for the camels are loaded with merchandise, while the men ride on horseback,—are usually purchased of the Kirghises. The horse bred in the steppes alone knows how to nibble the young shoots off a thorny bush, or to extort a mouth-

ful from the sun-burnt turf, or to swallow the bitterness of the stagnant pool.

Used as the Siberians are to extremes of climate, they complain vehemently of the oppressive heat of Tashkend. There, gentle spring wears all the beauty of "etherial mildness"; but lo! summer comes, and in a few days the turf, which was lately so verdant, is burnt to dust. The whole wealth of Tashkend consists in the produce of its soil; yet that soil would soon be annexed to the desert, if it were not for the industry of man. Every green thing grown in Tashkend—the mulberry trees to feed the silk-worms, the fruit trees, even the trees reared for fuel, are, with the humbler vegetable species, all planted in gardens, watered by canals derived from the little river Cherchik, flowing about twelve miles from Tashkend. It is said that even the richest inhabitants of the place, (the Khan alone being an exception to the general rule,) labour in the cultivation of their corn-fields. Their cotton, which is of the best quality, constitutes the chief article of their commerce with the north. More than half of the population is employed in the manufacture of cotton, but their processes are so rude, that Russia is encouraged to aim at supplying them with goods manufactured with the cotton of their own growth, notwithstanding the cost and trouble of transporting the raw article a three months' journey overland. If the river Indus could be safely navigated some distance up, cotton goods might arrive in Turkestan nearly in as short a time from Manchester as from Moscow.

We cannot believe, on the authority of Erman or his informants, that the town of Tashkend contains 80,000 inhabitants; we think an estimate of 20,000 would be much nearer the truth. We also receive with some scepticism his statement, that the Russian slaves in Turkestan amounted in the beginning of this century to 60,000. He offers none of those explanations which the capture and enslavement of so many thousands seem to require. The Russian slaves in Turkestan are many of them convicts, escaped from the mines of Nerchinsk; but the majority of them are fugitive serfs, who, indulging too far in their roving propensities, fall into the hands of the Kirghises, and are sold by them to their southern neighbours. Their bigotry provokes that of their Mohammedan masters, and though valued as slaves, they are yet very cruelly treated. The Siberian merchants who visit Turkestan extol the obstinate adherence of these unhappy men to their religious creed, but, as if envious of their martyrdom, they never ransom them.

The fierceness of religious bigotry is maintained in Siberia and Eastern Russia by the constant clashing of sects. The settlers of the Ural are nearly all sectarians (Raskolniki), left behind in what is called the "old belief," by the movement of orthodoxy. Some of them (nicknamed Säsliniki, or beer-swillers, in low language,) acknowledge no clergy, but have meetings, which are said to terminate in the most unbridled licentiousness. Another sect, called Clistovchina, runs to the opposite extreme; for its members, who call themselves Skópzi, make sure of their continence by the most violent and revolting means. The Russian government has been occasionally obliged to lay aside its habitual tolerance, and to interpose its authority to repress these fanatical excesses.

Turkestan contains besides the Russians, many thousand slaves stolen from the neighbouring countries, chiefly from the frontiers of Persia. The wandering tribes, rather than remain idle, are glad to engage in the slave-catching line, and even kidnap one another's children. When a party of Kirghises visit a friendly horde, the women run about screaming, like hens clucking

to gather their chickens, and, driving their young ones into a tent, guard them in a body till their friends and countrymen are departed. A Kirgis, in the service of our author, had been enticed, when a boy, to a distance from home, and sold by his own father. He married in Tobolsk, and when his children grew up, he retaliated on fortune by selling them, and pocketing a few hundred roubles.

Gathering its luxuries from the most distant countries of the old world, Tobolsk has not omitted to import French dancing. It endears also to heighten the graces of the West by a mixture of Siberian heartiness, the quadrille and galopade being there accompanied by singing, and the ladies displaying at once their figures and their voices. Every pretext, religious or social, appears to be seized on to have a feast, a ceremony, or public show. Marriage gives occasion to four ceremonies: first comes the "meeting"; then "the near inspection"; afterwards the "shaking of hands"; and finally, the "maiden's feast," which completes the nuptial rites. It was not, however, the pleasures of the place which detained our travellers at Tobolsk, but the unfavourable season of the year (October), when the great transition from the wheeled vehicle to the sledge, from the road and bridge to the ice-bound river and universal snow, was just impending. They luckily met with an old Swedish officer, eighty years of age, who pointed out to them the spot where Chappé d'Auteroche had established his observatory in 1762; and there they accordingly repeated their astronomical observations. Our author eagerly awaited the fall of snow and setting in of winter, that he might proceed northwards on an excursion to Obdorsk, while Professor Hansteen remained behind. The snow at length fell, and our author, daily engaged in making observations, while the mercury was sunk below zero, had some gentle experience of what he was to expect in the midst of winter, and 600 miles further north. But we must stop to breathe, and rest a week before we commence so arduous a journey.

#### MUNSTER MELODIES.†

THERE are few who have conversed with the lower order of Irish, that have not been surprised at the freshness and accuracy of their historical knowledge. Many a shivering peasant will describe to you particulars of Strongbow's invasion, of the introduction of the Reformed religion and the consequent wars, of Strafford's tyranny, of Cromwell's cruelty, and the treachery believed to have insured the triumph of William III. Each and all of these events are spoken of as things of yesterday, and rarely is the tale told without some obscure intimation that a day of reckoning may come, or a hint that some old prophecies have predicted an era of happiness to Ireland, that will more than compensate for previous suffering; it is almost needless to add, that the Munster melodies are truly national in their religion and politics, although, until very recently, it was considered dangerous to give currency to such sentiments, and they were wrapped in a veil of allegory, often sufficiently whimsical, of which the popular song of the 'New Grey Mare' may be regarded as a fair specimen. We can only give an extract:—

In the year of ninety-eight she ran for the king's plate,  
And in Wexford she still is respected;  
On the Curragh of Kildare she was crossed by Dourley  
there,

Where the enemy she duly corrected:  
Likewise on Vinegar Hill she did obtain her will,  
Until Holt to his friends proved a traitor;  
Lord Edward likewise, whose name she did prize,

As a warrior and true legislator.

In Athlone one day, where false Lutterell did betray,

And proved himself Hibernia's innovator,

For fourpence a head, without either fear or dread,  
He sold to the foreign legislator.  
There was Sarsfield likewise, her foes she did surprise,  
When at Limerick his rights she defended;  
But she's mounted now again, by brave Dan of noble fame,  
So the adventures of my Mare are now ended.

This song is the application to modern times of a more ancient rhapsody, in which the triumph of the young Pretender was confidently anticipated. We have not been able to procure a copy of the original, else it would be curious to examine the transmigration of a Jacobite into a Danielite melody; but that the hereditary attachment of the Irish to the house of Stuart, was not abated by that family's treachery and ingratitude, will appear from the following verses of a song, still popular, in which the fallen dynasty is typified as 'The Royal Blackbird.'

Once in fair England my Blackbird did flourish,  
He was the chief flower that in it did spring;  
Prince ladies of honour his person did nourish,  
Because he was the true son of a king.  
But that false fortune,  
Which still is uncertain,  
Has caused this parting between him and me;  
His name I'll advance,  
In Spain and in France,  
And seek out my Blackbird, wherever he be.

The birds of the forest all meet together,  
The turtle has chosen to dwell with the dove;  
And I am resolv'd, in foul or fair weather,  
Once in the spring to seek out my love.  
He's all my heart's treasure,  
My joy and my pleasure,  
And justly, my love, my heart follows thee;  
Who are constant and kind,  
And courageous of mind,  
All bliss to my Blackbird, wherever he be.

But of late years the mystical style has been in a great degree laid aside, and the presumed wrongs of Ireland asserted with an openness which once would have been deemed dangerous, if not treasonable. Take, for instance, the strains that describe 'The Distress of Lovely Erin.'

Ye sons of desolation, throughout this Irish nation,  
Your lonely degradation now causes me to write,  
Since Luther's reformation, we are void of consolation,  
And for transubstantiation bereft of all delight.  
O God, most high in station, what sad disconsolation,  
Whose grief and tribulation oppressed our country;  
Bloodshed, confiscation, death and desolation,  
In our lonely habitation, consigned to misery.

Our clergy has been treated as men they captivated,  
Bled martyrs incarnate, with the utmost cruelty;  
Our churches confiscated, and our altars contaminated,  
Our mansions desolated with base malignity.  
Those cruel Orange traitors, and inhuman lacerators,  
Those woful depredators like hungry lions roar;

They thought to captivate us, and solely extirpate us,

By blood and confiscation, as they had done before.

But the plainness of this is surpassed by the threats in the song of 'Shamrock Green Island.'

Old Lucifer said unto Luther that day,  
For three hundred years I'll defend you,  
Till a prophet will rise in the western isle,  
And in spite of my aid he will end you.  
The time is expired that the devil decreed,  
And Daniel already our bondage has freed,  
Religion will smile once more in our isle,  
When the bull-dog and lion are defeated;  
The mastiff also, and wolf in sheep's clothes,  
The fleece we'll shear off them naked;  
One half of the rent we will cast away,  
The tithes and the taxes no longer we'll pay,  
The fruit of our labour we'll have from this day,  
No longer we'll have either bailiff or proctor;  
We'll muzzle the nose of each peeler and watchman,  
Those servants and curs for the bone they are barking  
All over the Shamrock Green Island.

These, and similar strains, which may be heard in every hamlet, are assuredly not calculated to inspire a belief of the patience of the Irish. A friend of ours recently heard many persons returning from a country chapel, chorusing the following stanza:—

Most we lie down, as boorish clowns,  
And brook to those betrayed us?  
Must we be bound, in fetters round,  
By cruel depredators?  
Must we pay tithes, church tax besides,  
For which there is no reason?  
Must we now lie, to starve and die,  
In our native land, poor Erin?

Here is a verse full of bitter denunciations upon 'The Bacon Sneakers':—

You bacon sneakers and man devourers,  
Your breath's like serpents or poisoned rods;  
To the heathen habits, you'll run like rabbits,  
That in this country was once mould.

† For a former notice see No. 472, p. 796.

For praising robbers, and midnight grabbers;  
For sacrilegious barbarity,  
Such outrages, to endless ages,  
In doleful pages you'll tarnished be.

We have already stated that the popular heroes of the Munster poets are Bonaparte and Daniel O'Connell. The exile of Napoleon to St. Helena was a sad calamity to the bards, not merely as the downfall of their hopes, but because the place of his banishment could not be got to "hitch into a rhyme." The best attempt was:—

He's gone o'er the sea,  
And the high mountainays,  
To take up his abode,  
In the isle of St. Helayna.

But the fetters of rhyme seem generally to have been disregarded by Napoleon's laureates, one of whom wrote the 'Farewell to Paris,' as a pendant to Byron's 'Farewell to France.' Here is the first verse:—

Farewell you splendid citadel, so towering, grand, and charming,  
Saluted every morning by Sol's resplendent beams,  
Conjoined with bright Aurora, advancing from the orient,  
The radiant light adoring with pure resplendent rays;  
Commanding Cynthia to retire,  
Where the glass windows flame like fire,  
Which the great universe admire,  
With brilliancy so gleamed.

The songs in honour of O'Connell are countless, but for the most part of little merit; he is, of course, set far above every patriot and hero of profane history, and recourse must be had to the Old Testament for his parallel.

Our hero, brave O'Connell,  
As plainly you may see,  
Like Moses with the Israelites,  
From bondage set us free.

But it is fondly deemed that the British parliament is not worthy of the illustrious liberator, who is compared to his namesake, the prophet, in the den of lions.

He seems to me somewhat to be  
Like Daniel named in holy writ,  
For virtue pure, and morals sure,  
For prudence and for religious wit;  
On him the jaw, or bigot's paw,  
Has got no power for to offend;  
The Prince of Peace will still release  
Brave Daniel from the Lion's den.

The reward proffered by one of the grateful poets is very characteristic:—

Each voice its harmony display,  
Like valiant Irish sports;  
Come sing and drive dull care away,  
And swig young Daniel's porter.  
A youth of manly principles,  
Our Liberator's son,  
Who in defence, of Erin's cause  
The laurel nobly won.

*Chorus.*

Come, push about the flowing quart,  
Now every gallant toper,  
Each lad will treat his own sweetheart  
To brave O'Connell's porter.

Too long the sons of Erin's isle  
In discord were divided,  
But from the hearts of Irishmen  
May rancour be subsided.  
Let every loyal patriot  
Assemble in good order,  
And toast the friends of Ireland  
In brave O'Connell's porter.

Discontent with the existing state of things, ardent attachment to those from whom a change was, or is, expected, would lead us naturally to expect that the administration of law meets with little respect. This, indeed, is carried to an outrageous excess—judges, juries, and jailers, are assailed with a coarseness too offensive to be quoted; while the rural police, commonly called Peelers, from the minister in whose official reign they were instituted, are assailed with every form of vituperation. One song approaches the character of a harmless squib, and we may therefore give a specimen:—

*The Peeler and the Goat.*

Two Banshee Peelers they went out,  
To banish and patrolling O;  
They met a Goat upon the road,  
Who seemed to be a stroller O;  
With bayonets fixed they salled forth,  
And caught him by the wisen O,  
And thundered out a mighty oath,  
They'd send him to New Zealand O.

GOAT.—O mercy, sir! the Goat replied;  
Pray let me tell my story O;  
I am no thief nor ribbon-man,  
A croppy, whig, or tory O;  
Guilty not of any crime,  
Petty or high treason O,  
For our tribe is wanted at this time,  
And this is the summer season O.

PEELER.—It is in vain for to complain,  
Or give your tongue such bridle O;  
You're absent from your dwelling place,  
Disorderly and idle O;  
Your hoary locks will not prevail,  
Nor your sublime oration O,  
For Peeler's laws will you transport,  
By your own information O.

It would be injustice to the Munster bards to suppose that politics engrossed all their attention,—though it must be confessed that of late years the minstrels have harped too often on that string. Ladies fair, however, are not allowed to bloom unhonoured: here is a genuine melody forwarded to us fresh from the press, in which gallantry and learning appear in the harmonious union that could only be found in the schools of Kerry, where Ovid is still a quotable authority in courts of Love.

*The Dear Irish Maid.*

On a fair summer's morning as Morphewus was parting,  
And the feather'd race warbling their notes in each bower,  
As beauteous Aurora just sprung from the ocean,  
And the fragrance of Flora was diffused in each flower;  
For sweet recreation, I went ambulating,  
Where the primrose and daisy were strew'd on the plain;  
Where the cowslips were blooming and violets perfuming,  
In an arbour sat musing a Dear Irish Maid.

Lambkins were sporting and clear fountains smoking,  
The game bounding forth from the green woods and glen,  
The sober herds loosing and the turtle dove cooing,  
The lark sweetly tuning with the blackbird and thrush;  
When the grey fog was clearing and bright Sol appearing,  
And the speckled trout skinning the transparent stream,  
In the alcove adjacent, in deep contemplation,  
Sat the Goddess of May, or the Dear Irish Maid.

I thought it indecent approach such a deity;  
Who deigned to serenade through that vernal valley;  
But fearing the charmer she might be Diana,  
That the fate of Acteon might happen to me.  
So quickening my pace with my limbs vibrating,  
I thought to escape her, but was led astray,  
By Cupid and Venus, who wantonly teased me,  
To an arbour conveyed me where sat this Dear Maid.

I guess'd her not Venus, Minerva, or Helen,  
Calypso, Encus, or fair Eurydice?

Her dress appeared rural, as she sat there viewing  
A meandering brook that most rapidly glides.

My spirits recruiting, I approached with confusion,  
And gently saluted this seraphic fair;

She said, Sir, pass by me, and don't tantalize me,  
For by love I'm destined to repine in these shades.

Are you Sylvia, or Pandora, sage Pallas, or Flora,  
Hibernia or Scotia, or what is your name?

Or are you famed Juno, or bright shining Luna,  
Or are you a human of Adam's great race?

If you, my dear creature, have commiseration,  
Be calm to my ailment and free me from care;

For you have captivated all my fond sensations,  
And made me a slave to you, charming fair Maid.

With mild condescension and smiles on each feature,  
She said, Sir, be seated in these lonely green bowers,  
As I am no deity, but a plain country maiden,  
That salled forth early to gather some flowers;

Those copious plantations and bounty of Ceres,

Have so pre-engaged me at this hour of day,

That I roved out mere careless led on by dame Nature,

So excuse the frailties of a Dear Irish Maid.

Then Sol began gleaming, and we retrograded,  
Through jessamine mazes to a place more remote,  
To shun speculators or perambulators,

That oftentimes are gleaming those elegant groves.

She's charming, she's moving, she's chaste and she's a

soothing,

She's a model of beauty; and blaw'd be the day

That I met this fair Phoenix, the pride of old Erin—

I will call her no name but the Dear Irish Maid.

Here, too, is part of the description of another 'Dear Irish Maid':—

With ivory she was well denticulated,  
Her lips decorated with mellifluence,  
Her person the wise Nestor might have captivated,  
She transcended fair Venus in her adolescence.

Her breasts in suspense were like silver globes,

Her vesture consisted of rich satin robes,

Her limbs were consistent to the cedar that grows,

In the spontaneous groves of Cathleen Thriall.

Many young Irish gentlemen, it would appear, are equally fortunate in meeting with supernatural beauties; here is the report of another:—

As I stood in amaze, gazing, wondering,

Pensively pondering in the air,

I saw a form most rare, bright and majestic,

In blooming attitude did appear.

Fill'd with admiration and struck with astonishment,  
With courteous blandishment I then drew near,  
The sweet consolation of her amorous magnitude,  
Crown'd each object of this blooming fair;

Art thou fair Venus that sprung from the foaming sea,

Or Diana the chaste, that ranges along the plains,

Minerva the great, or one of those tuneful trains,

I'm lull'd, &c.

I boldly stepped forth deprived of soliloquy,

And address'd this fair creature, &c.

We gave in our former notice, some specimen of the classic style, but the writer of the following verses beats all his predecessors:—

She is handsome, mild, modest and decent,  
Sober, sincere, and refined,  
Prudent, keen, sensible, sapient,  
Accomplished in frame and in mind,  
Affable, meek, and engaging,  
Courteous, sweet, pleasing, and free,  
She's virtuous and captivating,  
Whoever the fair one can be.

Zenobia the great, of Palingra,  
Or Helen the famed Spartan queen,  
Or Alcides' princess, Dejanira,  
Whose tunic his ruin had been,  
Or Belinda, whose tresses were charming,  
Or Daphne now changed to a tree,  
Were sought when compared with my darling,  
Whoever the fair one can be.

Artemisa, the Empress of Caria,  
Whose actions recounted have been,  
Or the famous Duchess of Bavaria,  
Or Dido, the African queen,  
Or the Egyptian princess who charmed  
Brave Cesar and Mark Antony,  
By her from their states would be stormed,  
Whoever the fair one can be.

The Nereids, the Naiads, the Graces,  
The Fates, and gay Hesperides,  
Diana in the midst of her chases,  
The Dryads and grave Castalides,  
Minerva, Dandria, Bellona,  
Latona, Cybele, and Thiebe,  
Inferno were, with Aurora,  
To the fair one whoever she be.

That intrepid Spartan commander,  
Who fell at famed Thermopylae,  
King Philip, or great Alexander,  
Who did the whole universe sway,  
Periander, Lyzander, Theseus,  
Or Cyrus, though valiant was he,  
Should bend, be they ever so famous,  
To the fair one, whoever she be.

The Irish ladies are certainly much indebted to the poets. Here is the report of a gentleman, who having his youth sadly wasted in drinking, gaming, and such pastime, sets out on foreign travel. His parting sorrow may be inferred from the following:—

Adieu to the green hills and the Lakes of Killarney,  
Where many a pleasant evening I cheerfully did row,  
Where schools of fish so pleasantly do sport and skip a merrily,

And on the silver surface their wanton pranks do show.

St. Patrick is our saint—a blessed man he was in troth,  
Great gifts to our nation he largely did bestow;  
He banished toads and snakes, which in other nations shelter sought;

And into gloomy regions they were all forced to go; it is a fact undoubtedly, which cannot controverted be, if you read the Irish history, to prove it, will show.

The report of London is not very favourable:

There you'd see maidens with loads of laces,  
Enough to eclipse the rising sun,  
With their modest looks and painted faces,  
Would make you swear each was a nun.

Nor does he flatter the women of other nations.

You Moorish damsels and fair Armenians,  
Chinese, Mulattoes, and Tarts likewise,  
Assyrians, Persians, and proud Atticians,  
Though ambrosialighted, I now despise  
Your gloomy aspect and greasy features.  
Who would compare the Tawny corps,  
To the nice blooming smiling creatures,  
That ambulate on the Irish Shore?

Before taking our leave of the Munster Melodies, we must quote a specimen of the humorous as well as the amatory. Here our riches are so great that it is difficult to make a choice; there are descriptions of weddings by the dozen, and fairs by the score, lamentations over marriage, and the inconveniences of single life; but, above all, there are Anacreontic celebrations of whiskey, and an extract from one may serve as a specimen:—

*The Humours of Cheap Whiskey.*  
Just as I ended my discourse,  
In came old Kathy Ryan,  
Saying, Mistress dear, the end of my purse  
Is twopence, come fill a noggin.

For the dirty dog I'm married to,  
He blacken'd my eye this morning;  
The price of his breakfast I left with you,  
And I'll drink while I have a farthing.

Then out bespoke the landlady,  
He's nothing but a villain;  
He scolded my house the other day,  
To the full 'mount of a shilling.

I'm very glad of that, says Kate;  
He served you very right, ma'm;  
For your house is open early and late,  
With a set of rogues and thieves, ma'm.

The 'Humours of Cheap Whiskey' may be judicially followed by the 'Humours of Donnybrook Fair.' We wish words would enable us to convey to the reader an idea of the sketch of M'Figg, which figures at the top of the ballad.

*The Donnybrook Jig.*

Oh! 'twas Dermot O'Rowland M'Figg  
That could properly handle the twig,  
He went to the fair, and kicked up a dust there,  
In dancing a Donnybrook jig, with his twig,  
Oh, my blessing is Dermot M'Figg.

But Dermot, his mind on love bent,  
In search of his sweetheart he went,  
Pepped here and there, as he walked through the fair,  
And took a small taste in each tent as he went,  
Och, on whiskey and love he was bent.

And who should he spy in a jig,  
With a meal-man so tall and so big,  
But his own darling Kate, so gay and so neat—  
Faith, her partner he hit him a dig, the pig,  
He beat the meal out of his wig.

Then Dermot, with conquest elate,  
Drew a stool near his beautiful Kate,  
Arrah, Katy, says he, my own Cushtyamachree!  
Save the world for beauty you beat complete,  
So we'll just take a dance while we wait.

But says Katy, the darling, says she,  
If you'll only just listen to me,  
It's myself that will show Billy can't be your foe,  
Though he fought for his cousin, that's me, says she,  
For sure Billy's related to me.

For my cousin-german, Ann Wild,  
Stood for Biddy Mulroney's first child,  
And Biddy's stepson, sure he married Bess Dunn,  
Who was gossip to Jenny, as milk a child  
As ever at mother's breast smiled.

And, may be, you don't know Jane Brown,  
Who served goat's whey in Dundrum's sweet town,  
'Twas her uncle's half-brother that married my mother,  
And bought me this new yellow gown to go down  
Where the marriage was held, at Milltown.

By the powers! then, says Dermot, 'tis plain,  
Like a son of that rascal Cain,  
My best friend I have kilt, though there is split,  
And the devil a harm did I mean, that's plain,  
But by me he'll be ne'er kilt again.

Then the meal-man forgave him the blow,  
That laid him a sprawling so low,  
And, being quite gay, asked them both to the play,  
But Katy, being bashful, said "No, no, no!"  
Yet he treated them all to the show.

Here we must take our farewell of the Munster bards; they may be regarded as the spokesmen of their countrymen; and we have brought them before our readers that they might have the feelings of the Irish related by Ireland's intellectual representatives. To know the popular bent of England, we must study newspapers; Ireland still speaks its mind in ballads and political songs. We shall pass no judgment on the political opinions advocated by the minstrels; only repeating, that, whether good or ill, they are the opinions most influential with the people of the south of Ireland.

STEAM NAVIGATION TO INDIA.

*The State of the Question.* By Capt. Melville Grindlay. Smith, Elder & Co.

We long since entered on a consideration of the question of steam navigation to India, weighing all circumstances urged in favour of the various routes by the Euphrates, the Red Sea, and the Cape. The 'State of the Question,' according to the Report before us, remains as we left it. Captain Grindlay, however, assumes that in the interval all doubt as to the claims of the conflicting routes has been removed. The result of the Euphrates Expedition, he says, has disappointed its projectors, and "the Cape route is

universally abandoned." Now here we take leave to say, the Captain is somewhat over confident. We agree with him, however, or rather he agrees with us, that, all circumstances considered, the more practicable route is that by the Red Sea; and we happily concur in opinion that no further delay ought to take place in acting on the recommendation of the Committee of the House of Commons, the government either taking the risk and charges on itself, or giving such aid and help to others as will enable them to do so with a reasonable chance of profit. We agree to this, because none are more sensible than ourselves of the immense benefits which England, as a great commercial nation, has derived, and must continue to derive, from the increased and increasing facilities of communication all over the world, and not for the reasons assigned by the Captain, who, like most other writers of the day, seems to have a wonderful skill in discovering the secret designs of "the great Northern Power." We have no fears either of "Russian attack or of Russian intrigue." We do not think that commercial property, or the commercial value of India, is at all dependent on the political possession of the country: but as we do agree in the advisability of establishing a regular and expeditious communication with India by the Red Sea, we have no doubt the Captain will allow us to dissent on minor matters. That he is wrong in asserting that the route by the Cape is universally abandoned, the following letter, from an experienced officer, and one well entitled to be heard on the subject, will fully prove.

*To the Editor of the Athenæum.*

The plan for establishing Steamers to run to India by the Euphrates having been found impracticable, I take the opportunity of again offering my opinion\* that Steam Vessels to Calcutta and Madras, via the Cape of Good Hope, will ultimately succeed.

I herewith send you a rough Track Chart of the course I propose, with the route out and home of the *Zenobia* free trader, which I take to be a fair average passage of those vessels.

[We could not conveniently give the chart referred to, but the following is the route proposed, with the places, and their several distances, at which it is proposed that the steamer should stop.]

*Steamer.*

Distances. days. knots.  
Lizard to Teneriffe ..... 1380 miles, 7 at 9.

Teneriffe to Sierra Leone 1212 — 6

S. Leone to Cape G. Hope 3133 — 15 28 days to Cape.

Cape to Mauritius ..... 2320 — 11 following  $\frac{1}{2}$  day to

Mauritius to Port Egale 2037 — 10

Port Egale to Madras 420 — 2

Madras to Calcutta ..... 734 — 3 26 da. to Calcutta.

Total ..... 54 days at Sea.

*Stoppages:*

At Teneriffe ..... 1 day.

Sierra Leone ..... 1

Cape of Good Hope ..... 2

Mauritius ..... 2

Port Egale ..... 1

Madras ..... 1

Stoppages ..... 8 days.

At Sea ..... 54 —

Total ..... 62 days.

*Zenobia.*

To Cape ..... 62 days.

Cape to Calcutta ..... 63 —

Total ..... 125 days out.

To Cape ..... 59 days.

Cape to England ..... 50 —

Total ..... 109 days home.

234 days at Sea.

The steamer I have chosen as a model is the *Rhadamanthus* Government vessel, of 800 tons and 220 horse power. She carries sufficient coals, at the under-mentioned speed, for 15 days, besides having on board at the same time all the materials necessary for two large guns and four carronades, with a crew of upwards of 100 men and officers. Her common rate of going is ten knots per hour, but I have given the track a supposed rate of nine knots, which, with stoppages, will take her to the Cape in 28, and to Calcutta in 62 days. You will perceive I do not interfere with the proposed East India Steam Navigation Company's route to Bombay, as I think the Red Sea the best for that Presidency, while we can command a free

passage that way, and have no pestilence to annoy the intercourse.

I find Captain Grindlay's chart calculates on getting to Calcutta in 50 days, but passengers coming back to Malta must undergo a quarantine of 19 days, independent of the inconvenience of getting females, children, and invalids from Suez to Alexandria. By the papers I perceive a Company is already forming at the Mauritius, to run steam packets to the Cape. Another Company can easily be established to run from the former place to Calcutta and Madras, and another be raised in England to take the run to the Cape. I find by the Memorial forwarded from Calcutta to the India Board, that the number of passengers annually from the following places, are,

	Arrivals.	Departures.
Calcutta	767	665
Madras	573	459
Ceylon	85	17
	1,425	1,141

Making, on an average, more than 100 monthly, going from and returning to England, besides the intercourse with the intermediate ports.

The course out from Sierra Leone to the Cape will be inside the South-east trade wind, and on the return the steamer will run down that trade under canvas, to Sierra Leone, calling at St. Helena and Ascension.

By this route we shall not only be independent of all other nations, but coals can be sent to Sierra Leone in vessels bound there in ballast to load timber, on very reasonable terms, and also to the Cape. It will be necessary in these long runs to take every opportunity of a fair wind to put the vessel under canvas, and to disconnect the wheels, blow the water out of the boilers, sweep the flues, and overhaul the machinery.

It has been stated that this voyage has already been tried by the *Enterprise* steamer, and failed; but this was in the very infancy of steam navigation; since which, the improvements in boilers, machinery, and vessels, have been so great, that steamers average two miles per hour more now than at that period.

The writer of this article wishes by all means that the plans of the Association to be called 'The East India Steam Navigation Company,' to run steamers to Bombay, may be carried into effect without delay; but it will be liable to great contingencies, which cannot happen by the route to the Cape; for instance, the breaking out of the plague in Egypt, or in case of war with either of the following nations, by Russia taking possession of Constantinople, or France becoming master of the whole of the African side of the Mediterranean.

The greatest evil to contend with in the route by the Cape will be the gales of wind which prevail in that latitude; but a good steamer will surmount the difficulties as well as a powerful sailing vessel. The establishment of steamers will not affect the shipping now engaged in the India commerce, except by passengers, who, of course, will give the preference to steamers.

The writer of this paper first tried the mail to Malta in the *Meteor* steamer, when only one passenger would venture to accompany him, but now it is a very common thing to have forty or fifty passengers at a time; it will increase with India in the same manner.

I will take the liberty to conclude with the late Governor General's words, "That the advantages of steam to India were so great, that they would be cheaply bought at any price."

W. H. SYMONS, Lieut. R.N.

Plymouth, 28 Jan. 1837.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Paynell, or the Disappointed Man*, by Miles Stapleton, Esq.

How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable,

Seem to me all the uses of this world.

Such is the motto of Paynell; but the hero's disappointment lies only in the satiety of exhausted passion. He has drunk the cup of desire and excitement to the dregs, and then wails and wonders because it is empty, while he is still thirsty. In short, Paynell belongs to the Lara school of heroes: he cannot please himself in the open and lawful paths of love, so must needs lose himself in its labyrinths and by-ways; he breaks the hearts of one or two women (the reader must take his fancies on trust), fights a duel with his friend, in a fit of jealousy, &c. &c. &c. Such are the incidents. The style is easy and unembarrassed; but we have met every one of its characters a hundred times at least, and care not if we never meet them again.

*A Selection from the Museum of the Vatican, consisting of Antique Vases, Altars, Chairs, and various Architectural Fragments*, by George Wightwick, Architect.—We always hail with pleasure the appearance of a work, containing pure models of ancient art, as the most efficacious counterpoise to that inundation of impure and tricky ornament with which the decorative embellishments of our houses, our furniture, and every class of ornamental work, has for these past years been overwhelmed. But we fear, that the present volume is little likely either to effect that end or to add to the reputation of the author. The selection is not sufficiently judicious, nor the execution sufficiently pure, to direct the artisan or

\* *Athenæum* 1835, p. 97, 121.

• See *Athenæum* for 1835, p. 361.

satisfy the artist. The examples are many of them of the later Roman school, during the decline of the arts; the drawing is too frequently timid, and the lithography dingy and spiritless. We would encourage our author to proceed in his course of furnishing to the class for whom he intends them, specimens of ancient art, but we would recommend him to be more choice in the selection; to draw them with greater accuracy and vigour; to have them engraved with more brilliancy and clearness of effect; and, at the same time, to get up the work with less waste of paper, which will avoid unnecessary addition to the cost.

*The History and Antiquities of Haddon Hall*, by S. Rayner. Part I.—Haddon Hall is one of the few baronial residences which retain their original features undisfigured by the rage for change or the prevalence of different habits. We were already acquainted with Haddon, from sketches exhibited at the Graphic Society and the Artists' Conversazioni, in which the pure and characteristic features of the architecture, the breadth and simplicity of effect, were delightfully treated. We hope that the author will, in the second part, furnish us with some general view of the whole building, as also with a plan, that we may the better appreciate those parts illustrated in the views. The work is got up with taste, and is an attractive and interesting book for the drawing-room table.

*Essays on Conversation and Quackery*.—These Essays, it appears, contain the substance of some lectures delivered at the Bath Literary Institution, and are, we fear, a fair sample of what is considered popular on such occasions. As to the first Essay, the writer's 'Canons of Conversation' are filled out with 'Characteristic traits of men eminently gifted with conversational powers,' that is to say, mere bald anecdotes as old as memory. The second is something better; but had the writer acted up to his own

directions (p. 9), "repetitions of stories should be avoided as much as possible," or borne in mind that (p. 27) "great quoter" are but "the haberdashers of talk," he not only would not have printed, but could not have delivered these lectures.

*Mudie's Popular Mathematics*.—The great difficulty which has ever beset the study of mathematics, is the ignorance in which beginners are suffered to remain, both of the nature and the object of that which they are expected to learn. Arithmetic is too generally made a kind of conjuration with figures, Algebra an art of solving mental puzzles, and Geometry an enigmatical display with lines and circles. Mr. Mudie, on the contrary, sets the goal full in the student's view from the very starting-point: he not only shows him how to work, but he tells him why to work. This has necessarily led the author to introduce generalization at the very beginning, and to lay aside the strict forms of technical logic; but the loss of symmetry is more than compensated by the distinct knowledge which the student obtains of the purport and intent of every successive step in his progress. The arrangement of the work is good, but in nothing is the author more happy, than in the place assigned to the doctrine of proportion, which he has wisely made the connecting link between the science of quantity and the science of magnitude. We think that he is rather too brief in his account of ratios, and could wish that the term "ratio" had been restricted to the geometrical relation, and "difference" applied to the arithmeticical.

*Five Sermons*, by the Rev. W. F. Hook, M.A.—These sermons were preached before the University of Oxford, and, viewed merely as literary compositions, they merit the approbation which they received from that learned body. Mr. Hook's principal object is to vindicate the doctrines and discipline of the Church of England, and to show their accordance

with the faith and practice of the early Christians; he is therefore necessarily compelled to discuss controversial topics, but he does so in a spirit of peace and charity, never imputing motives to those who conscientiously differ from him in opinion.

*Brider's Latin Syntax*.—A useful introduction to a knowledge of the structure of the Latin language.

*List of New Books*.—*Dissertation on the Progress of Ethical Philosophy*, by Sir James Mackintosh, with Preface by the Rev. W. Whewell, 1st edit. 8vo. 9s. cl.—*Lies and Correspondence of the late Rev. H. Belgrave, Esq. &c. Simpson* (Rev. R.) *Lectures on Elijah*, 12mo. &c. *Christ in Believers the Hope of Glory*, by the Rev. J. Brown, with *Introductory Sketch*, by the Rev. I. McDonald, A. M. 19mo. 2s. 6d.—*Rabbi Kimchi's Commentary on the Prophecies of Zechariah*, translated from the Hebrew, by the Rev. A. McCaul, 8vo. 7s. bds.—*Christian Family Library*, Vol. XXIII. (Life of the Rev. A. R. Franke,) &c. 5s. cl.—*Spillians' (Dr.) Translation of the London Pharmacopœia*, 18mo. 6s. bds.—*Tales in Prose*, by May Howitt, 12mo. 3s. 6d. bds.—*Family Poetry*, by the Rev. of the *Sacred Harp*, 32mo. 3s. cl.—*Golden Grove*, 18mo. 3s. cl.—*The Child's Sacred Treasury*, 32mo. 1s. 6d. cl.; 2s. 6d. silk.—*Sacred Songs for Girls*, by Lady Jane W. St. Maur, 12mo. 2s. cl.—*McNicol's Works and Life*, by J. Dixon, 8vo. 12s. bds.—*Jardine and Selby's Illustrations of Ornithology*, 3 vols. imp. 4to. 10s. 6d.; large, 15s. 15s. bds.—*Bent's Supply and the London Catalogue of Books, from 1834 to 1837*, 8vo. 3s. 6d. swd.—*Woolrych's New Inclosure Act*, 12mo. 3s. bds.—*Life of George Tersteegen*, translated from the German, by Samuel Jackson, 3rd edit. 1s. cl.—*Goldsmith's Beauties of Beaumont and Fletcher*, 12mo. 4s. cl.—*Johnson's Economics of Health*, 2nd edit. 8vo. 7s. 6d. bds.—*Greenhill on Ezekiel*, revised by the Rev. J. Shearman, imp. 8vo. 25s. cl.—*Jebb's Practical Theology*, 2d edit. 2 vols. 8vo. 24s. bds.—*Jowett's Fifty-two Sermons for Afflicted Souls*, 12mo. 2s. cl.—*Nicholson and Rebotham's Algebra*, 3rd edit. 12mo. 5s. bd.—*Jacobs' Latin Reader*, Part I. new edit. 12mo. 3s. bd.—*Perrin's Elements of French Conversation*, new edit. 12mo. 1s. 6d. bd.—*Worth Companion*, or *Footsteps to Experimental Chemistry*, 18mo. 8d. swd.—*Crosby's Builder's Price Book*, 1837, 12mo. 4s. swd.—*Peter Parley's Tales of the Sea*, sq. 4s. 6d. bds.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL FOR JANUARY.  
KEPT BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT THE APARTMENTS OF  
THE ROYAL SOCIETY, BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

1837.	9 o'clock, A.M.		3 o'clock, P.M.		Dew Point at 9 A.M., deg. Fahr.	External Thermometer.		Rain in inches. Read off at 9 A.M.	Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.	REMARKS.	
	Barometer.		Barometer.			Att. Ther.	Fahrenheit.				
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○ 1	30.510	30.500	33.2	30.475	30.468	33.4	30	30.5	33.6	30.7	40.8
M 2	30.392	30.386	30.5	30.360	30.356	31.3	24	23.7	32.4	24.0	34.2
T 3	30.316	30.306	33.1	30.270	30.264	35.2	27	34.8	39.4	24.0	36.2
W 4	30.350	30.348	35.2	30.350	30.344	36.0	29	35.4	38.3	30.5	40.7
T 5	30.152	30.148	35.9	29.980	29.976	37.2	30	36.3	37.4	34.3	38.3
● F 6	29.648	29.640	37.8	29.622	29.618	40.2	33	44.3	45.9	35.2	45.0
S 7	29.634	29.628	40.2	29.788	29.780	42.7	37	40.2	43.5	38.5	47.6
○ 8	30.214	30.206	38.9	30.250	30.242	39.8	33	34.2	38.3	34.2	44.5
M 9	30.218	30.205	39.6	30.182	30.172	41.8	34	44.6	48.6	34.8	45.2
T 10	29.780	29.774	43.2	29.758	29.744	45.2	39	46.5	42.3	44.5	49.4
W 11	30.128	30.122	38.8	30.152	30.146	38.8	28	30.4	33.7	30.2	50.3
T 12	30.118	30.110	36.7	29.917	29.910	37.9	30	33.7	36.7	30.5	34.4
F 13	29.445	29.438	40.7	29.346	29.342	42.4	38	47.8	49.4	34.2	48.5
S 14	29.960	29.950	40.3	30.104	30.098	41.0	33	37.2	38.9	35.8	50.2
○ 15	30.406	30.400	38.2	30.385	30.378	39.3	34	34.4	38.0	33.3	39.8
M 16	30.346	30.342	37.8	30.308	30.300	38.4	32	34.4	37.3	33.3	38.4
T 17	30.294	30.288	38.9	30.250	30.248	39.8	34	39.6	41.7	34.5	40.4
W 18	30.164	30.158	40.3	30.088	30.084	40.7	34	39.3	39.2	39.5	43.2
T 19	29.940	29.934	38.9	29.850	29.846	39.5	34	35.8	37.8	34.7	40.0
F 20	29.740	29.734	38.6	29.697	29.694	38.7	33	35.0	35.8	34.8	39.0
○ S 21	29.664	29.656	38.2	29.586	29.584	39.7	33	36.3	41.8	35.0	36.7
○ 22	29.406	29.398	40.8	29.300	29.296	42.3	37	44.6	50.2	36.3	45.3
M 23	29.424	29.416	44.3	29.386	29.378	46.6	40	48.3	49.2	44.6	50.5
T 24	29.564	29.556	47.2	29.602	29.600	48.5	42	47.3	48.4	46.8	50.7
W 25	29.580	29.576	46.9	29.642	29.636	47.6	41	44.5	44.4	44.4	49.6
T 26	29.598	29.592	46.0	29.600	29.595	45.2	41	42.5	41.2	42.8	45.3
F 27	29.764	29.760	42.3	29.786	29.782	42.2	36	38.8	38.9	37.6	43.0
S 28	29.870	29.864	40.1	29.874	29.870	39.9	34	35.3	34.7	35.0	39.8
○ 29	29.787	29.782	37.7	29.734	29.728	37.9	32	34.2	34.7	32.8	37.2
M 30	29.794	29.790	37.5	29.778	29.772	38.9	32	36.7	41.7	32.4	37.0
T 31	29.918	29.913	40.6	29.942	29.936	42.2	35	42.9	45.3	36.5	43.6
MEANS	29.939	29.933	39.3	29.914	29.909	40.3	33.8	38.4	40.6	35.3	42.7
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											Correct height of Barometer, reduced to 32° Fahr. 2.313
											9 o'clock. 29.915 3 o'clock. 29.886
											32° Fahr. 29.007 32° Fahr. 29.881

The Barometer now made use of, is a new one formed of two tubes dipping into one cistern of mercury.

OUR WORLD  
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## OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

SINCE our last reference to the subject of an international copyright, our attention has been directed to further proofs of the ruinous consequences of the present state of the law, upon the literature of both England and America. It is well known, that Richardson's English Dictionary, which first appeared in the *Encyclopaedia Metropolitana*, formed so distinguished a characteristic of that work, that it was subsequently thought advisable to make it a substantive and separate publication. This was not, of course, an *ad captandum* book—pocket or popular dictionary, suited to and likely to find a ready sale among the million—but a laborious etymological work, in two quarto volumes, which must have cost some thousands of pounds, and the remuneration for which could be hoped for only from a slow, but permanent sale, among English scholars all over the world. No sooner, however, is it high character known, that every market is finally and effectually closed against it, by a republication in America. The New York publisher has just issued an address to the American public, in which he states, that his hope of a successful speculation in this republication has proved to be well founded. "A large edition (he says) of the first numbers was quickly exhausted, a second was produced, and, before the ninth number became current, a third edition became necessary, which has subsequently been put through the press, and is again nearly exhausted." He afterwards boasts that he has received no less than ninety-two critical notices, of a favourable nature, from the American press, "many of them showing, in articles of considerable length, a very minute examination, and having made their appearance in every range of periodical, from the Quarterly Review to the Daily Journals." He acknowledges that two, in addition to this formidable array of 92, a number which shows that at any rate there is no dearth of critics among our western brethren, were unfavourable: but he seems quite satisfied that they were so, from a feeling of national partiality for Dr. Webster. Here, be it observed, we have a manifest proof of the *two-fold* injury to which we formerly adverted; the feeling of national partiality referred to was, we trust, a feeling of *national justice*. Dr. Webster, after many years of laborious study, produced a dictionary, which, in America, has superseded Johnson, and had a very extensive sale in England—and here is an American publisher running another work against it in the American market; a work which reflects no honour on his country, which is published at the mere cost of the paper and print, while Dr. Webster's book has to carry the additional weight of the pecuniary reward given to that laborious student for years of literary drudgery. Is it not certain, that if this system be permitted to go on, no publisher in either country can henceforth venture to purchase and publish valuable works which alone can confer honour on the age?

Quarterly Reviews come thick upon us—it is impossible, indeed, to find time to read them all. We must, however, as a stranger, give a welcome to the *Church of England Quarterly*. There is nothing we like more than to see the several parties in the country have their especial representatives—we turn to them and know at once the direction of opinion. The *Church of England*, however, has long had the *British Critic* in its interest—an able and well-conducted journal; and we read the announcement of this rival publication with some surprise. Either great powers and resources, or great inexperience, only could lead to the attempt: and we had not read one half of the very long and elaborate Introduction, before we had quite decided to which alternative we must attribute its appearance.

The Gresham prize medal for the best composition in sacred vocal music, has been awarded to the Rev. W. H. Havergal, Rector of Astley, in Worcestershire. The umpires were Mr. Professor Stevens, Dr. Crotch, and W. Horsley.

## BRITISH INSTITUTION, FALL MALL.

The Gallery for the Exhibition and Sale of the Works of BRITISH ARTISTS, is Open daily from 10 in the Morning until 5 in the Evening.—Admittance, 1s.; Catalogue, 1s.

WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

## SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

## ROYAL SOCIETY. FEB. 13.

Feb. 9.—Francis Baily, Esq. V.P. and Treasurer, in the chair.

A paper was read, entitled, "On the Elementary Structure of Muscular Fibre of Animal and Organic Life." By F. Skey, Esq.

## ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Feb. 4.—Sir Henry Willcock, and, afterwards, the Right Hon. Sir Gore Ouseley, Bart. in the chair.—Several presents to the library were laid upon the table. The paper read was a Sketch of the island of Borneo, written by G. W. Earl, Esq., a member of the Society. Mr. Earl derived his materials, partly from a visit which he made to the western coast of the island in 1834, partly from the notes of a gentleman who travelled into the interior from the opposite side of the island, and from information gathered from Europeans and natives who had visited other parts. The *Dyaks* are supposed, by the writer, to be the aborigines of the island. These people have been driven into the interior by the Chinese and Malay colonists, who have had settlements on the western coast for a long period. The Sambas and Pontianak, two considerable rivers, extend far into the island. The Dutch have settlements at the mouths of both these rivers; and an expedition from them is said to have ascended the latter as far as 230 miles. Mr. Earl was informed that the river was found to open into a large lake. The commanding situation of the Dutch colonists enables them to exercise perfect control over the Chinese, and to impose enormous duties on the imports and exports of the latter—a system which has almost ruined the commerce of that part of the coast. On the eastern side of the island a considerable trade is carried on by the Bugis settlers from the Celebes. The *Dyaks* of Borneo have a horrid custom of waging indiscriminate war with the other tribes of the island, for the sole purpose of obtaining human skulls, the number of which, in the possession of one of these individuals, serving with his tribe as a measure of his value and rank; and he cannot marry before he has produced a skull captured by his own prowess. In all respects Mr. Earl considers them a tractable and inoffensive race; and believes they might be easily brought to a more civilized state. There is a colony of Bugis also on the south side of Borneo. Mr. Earl is inclined to doubt the existence of the range of mountains delineated in the maps of Borneo as running through the island from north-east to south-west, and thinks that their places are occupied by a chain of lakes. He concludes by observing that a better acquaintance with this large island, possessing, as it does, such rich mines of gold and precious stones, and so fine a soil, is much to be desired; and considers that Borneo would afford a good market for almost all kinds of British merchandise.

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 7.—A communication was read from Mr. Wm. Buchan, gardener to Lord Bagot, on the cultivation of the Cinnamon tree in the open air in England, an experiment likely to be attended with favourable results in the southern and western countries; for this purpose, seeds of the *Cinnamomum verum* were sent for distribution to the members. An abstract of the Meteorological Journal kept in the Society's garden during the past year was read, in addition to which a return was submitted of the highest and lowest states of the barometer and thermometer, and the amount of rain observed, between the 1st of January and 7th of February of the present year, which was as follows:

Barometer .... Highest Jan. 1.... 30.585

— Lowest 22.... 29.358

Thermometer.. Highest — 24.... 50° Fahr.

— Lowest — 2.... 22° Fahr.

Total amount of rain, 3.03 inches.

It being the wish of many members of the Society, it was announced that a similar statement would be given monthly.

Some fine specimens of *Oncidium Carthaginense*, *Bilbergia iridifolia*, *Pancratium speciosum*, varieties of Epacris, *Poinsettia pulcherrima*, *Camellias*, &c., were exhibited from Mrs. Lawrence, F.H.S., and Mr. Geo. Glenny, F.H.S. Grafts of esteemed va-

rieties of plums, cherries, and pears were distributed.

It was announced that a Knightian medal had been awarded to Mr. Glenny, for his different species of Epacris, and a Banksian medal to Mr. Wm. Buchan, for his cultivation of the Cinnamon.

## LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

Jan. 17.—A. B. Lambert, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The chairman exhibited some specimens of a new sort of grape, of a very considerable size, being four inches and a half in diameter, and the racines weighing each between three and four pounds, sent to him by the Duke of Sussex, from Kinnell Park, in the gardens of which they were grown; and a specimen from his Royal Highness, sent from Holkham, which he considered a petrified truffle; the chairman, however, expressing a contrary opinion. There were likewise exhibited, from Mr. F. Bennett, the edible products of three plants, and specimens of coco nuts and maple sugar from Tahiti. The commencement of a paper was read from J. O. Westwood, Esq., on those analogies of vegetable and animal life properly termed affinity.

Feb. 7.—A. B. Lambert, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The chairman exhibited some specimens of manna recently brought by Lieut. Wellsted from Mount Sinai, considered to be the produce of a tamarisk, and which is supposed to be identical with that on which the children of Israel fed in the Wilderness. It is obtained in considerable quantities, and will keep for a long time. There was likewise exhibited a branch of a tree growing 5000 feet up Mount Horeb, above the level of the sea, brought by Lieut. Wellsted, which was also supposed to be of the tamarisk, or tree producing manna. The chairman announced, that, in the prosecution of his researches in Arabia Felix, this traveller had added much to our knowledge of its natural history, and, amongst other discoveries, had ascertained the tree producing myrrh, as also the *Sanguis Draco*. He had also surveyed the northern coast of the Red Sea, where he had many opportunities of confirming the descriptions of Bruce, whom he considered the most accurate traveller in those regions who had ever returned to Europe. A description was read of a new species of British grass, common in the counties of Essex, Hants, and Sussex, by C. Babington, M.A.; as also a letter to Professor Don, on the *Polygonum convolvulus*, and *Epipactis purpurata* and *latisolia*; and the continuation of Mr. Westwood's paper on the affinities of animal and vegetable life.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Jan. 23.—Anniversary Meeting.—The Rev. F. W. Hope, President, in the chair.—A report of the Treasurer's accounts was read and unanimously adopted. The following gentlemen were elected as officers for the ensuing year.—President, J. F. Stephens, Esq.; Treasurer, W. Yarrell, Esq.; Secretary, Mr. Westwood; Curators, Messrs. Westwood and Strickland. The President delivered an address congratulating the Society upon its rapid advance and favourable prospects. Since the time when he had taken the chair, there had been an accession of nearly 80 members. He commented on the death of Dr. Leach, upon whom he passed a high eulogium.

The Secretary gave notice that the insect which had for several years past been extremely injurious to turnips (viz. the larva of the *Athalia centifolia*, or the blacks, as they are generally termed), had been selected by the Council as the subject for the prize essays of 1838.

Feb. 5.—J. F. Stephens, Esq. President, in the chair.—The following gentlemen were nominated as Vice Presidents for the ensuing year, namely, The Rev. F. W. Hope, and Messrs. Saunders, Shuckard, and Hanson. A copy of a valuable work, the "Historia Tripartita" published in 1472, rendered completely valueless to bibliopolists, by the attacks of the book-worm, or larva of the *Conobrum striatum*, was presented by Mr. J. Bohn, which led to a considerable discussion as to the most probably advantageous remedies which could be employed for the destruction of that insect or the preservation of books from its attacks; the most efficacious of which appeared to be to drop a little prussic acid upon various parts of the book and to inclose it in an air-tight box, when

the insects would be destroyed in a few minutes. By other members the application of heat to 170° was suggested, and which would destroy the insects without probably injuring the book. Dipping books attacked in a solution of ten grains of corrosive sublimate in four ounces of alcohol was also recommended. The memoirs read were, 1. Catalogue, with notes, of the coleopterous insects observed near Penzance and the Land's End, by Frederick Holme, Esq. M.A. 2. Enquiries into the grounds for the opinion that ants lay up stores of food, by the Rev. F. W. Hope, F.R.S.

## MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

SAT.	{ Artists' Conversazione	Eight, P.M.
	{ Westminster Medical Society	Eight.
MON.	{ Geographical Society	Nine.
	Institution of British Architects	Eight.
TUES.	{ Medico-Chirurgical Society	1 p. Eight.
	Society of Arts (Illustrations)	Eight.
	Civil Engineers	Eight.
	Zoological Society (Sci. Business)	1 p. Eight.
WED.	Society of Arts	Eight.
THUR.	{ Royal Society	1 p. Eight.
	Society of Antiquaries	Eight.
FRI.	{ Geological Society (Anniversary)	One.
	Royal Institution	1 p. Eight.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

## DRURY LANE.

This Evening, CINDERELLA; and THE PANTOMIME, MONDAY, BRUTUS (*Lucius Junius Brutus*, Mr. E. Forrest); with THE CRIMSON ROBE (Barrett); and BLUE BEARD. TUESDAY, THE MOUNTAIN SYLPH (*Hebe*, Mr. H. Phillips); and other Entertainments. Wednesday, No Performance. Thursday, MACBETH; and THE MOUNTAIN SYLPH.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS.  
WILLIS'S ROOMS, KING STREET, ST. JAMES'S,  
FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF QUARTETTES, QUINTETTES,  
etc. etc.

Messrs. Mori, Watta, Moralt, Lindley, Dragometti, &c. PROGRAMME of the FIRST CONCERT, MONDAY, Feb. 13, 1837, at 8 o'clock precisely.—PART I. Nottetto, *Sphyr*; Canzonetta, Mrs. Alfred Shaw, *Handel*; Quartett, *Beethoven*; Duo, Miss F. Williams, *Handel*; Solo, *Handel*; *Handel*; *Handel*; *Handel*.—PART II. Septetto, *Pianoforte*, &c. *Moschetti*; Arioso, Miss Fanny Woodham; Parto ma tu ben mio, *Clarinet Obligato*, Mr. Willman; *Moschetti*; Air, Mrs. Alfred Shaw; *Winter*; Quintett, *Mendelssohn*.—Conductor, Mr. Moschetti.

The subsequent Concerts will take place on the THURSDAY EVENINGS of February 23; March 2, 16; April 6, 20.

Terms of Subscription: One Guinea for Three Concerts, or for Six Concerts, Two Guineas; Single Tickets, 10s. The Tickets, which are transferable, to be had at Mori & Laven's Circulating Library, 25, New Bond-street; and Bett's, Royal Exchange.

HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS—QUARTET CONCERTS. Messrs. Blagrove, Gattie, Dando, and Lucas, beg to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of their Friends, that QUARTET CONCERTS will take place on THURSDAY EVENINGS NEXT, February 16th, to commence precisely at half-past 8 o'clock. Vocal and Instrumental Performers during the series—Mad. Caradori, (who will sing on two evenings), Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Alfred Shaw, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Anderson, Mademoiselle D'Urberville, Mrs. Moschetti, Potts, Blagrove, Gattie, Dando, Lucas, Howell, Sir George Smart, &c. Subscriptions: Tickets for the series (transferable) One Guinea each, may be had of Messrs. Blagrove, Gattie, Dando, and Lucas; Messrs. Collard & Co. Cheapside; and Messrs. Cramer & Co. Regent-street.

VOCAL CONCERTS.—The third of these Concerts was indisputably better than either of its predecessors in the selection of its music, and at least as good in point of performance. The first upon our list of things to be mentioned is Stafford Smith's elaborate glee, 'Blest pair of Sirens,' which was very carefully sung by Miss Woodyatt, Miss Hawes, Messrs. Hawkins, Hobbs, and Bellamy: the scene from Storace's 'Pirate' which followed, though effective, is but common-place and (parts of it) vulgar as music. The two madrigals, which were, of course, *encore*, were Ward's 'Die not, fond man,' and Weekes's 'Lady, your eye'—the first grave, and almost funeral in character, the second with a rousing and cheerful 'Fal la,' in the execution of which the boys' voices were too predominant. Mrs. E. Seguin and Miss Hawes sang 'Qual anelante' with great precision; but the former lady's voice is increasingly uneven in its delivery; we doubt whether she could sing a scale *mezzo voce*, with all its notes equal in strength: one brought up at the Academy ought not so young to fall into one of the worst vices of the old English school. While we are cavilling at the lady singers, we may as well 'take exceptions' at Miss Woodyatt's shake (which is always false) and the numerous little trills with which she over-graces her music; she should make a better use of her very sweet voice. The first act closed with Handel's noble 'Sing, O ye Heavens!' (Belshazzar). The instrumental piece selected for interlude was a quintett of Onslow's, admirably performed by Messrs. Blagrove, Gattie, Dando, Lucas, and Howell—the slow movement in particular, one of its author's most

graceful and delicate inventions, went with an equality and expression, and consent, which can hardly be sufficiently praised. The *scena* from 'Euryanthe,' which opened the second act, and was sung by Messrs. Hawkins, Bellamy, E. Taylor, and chorus, was a very great treat. Almost all other dramatic music sounds small and formal after the bold, and grand, and original writing of this opera—and we could not but feel, as we listened, a chilling sense of the inferiority of most of the writers who are left to us. They toil: Weber created. Compare, as an instance, the challenge septett from the 'Huguenots' with the fragment under notice, a trio of similar import—and the distance between the two *mæstri* must be felt to be—alas for us!—dismally long. Miss Shirreff was not successful in Mozart's 'Parto'—it was sung like an exercise not perfectly *got up*—but the song, perhaps, is something intractable; she was very well accompanied on the clarinet by Mr. Lazarus. Before we leave the Vocal Society for another fortnight, we wish to draw the attention of our readers to their approaching performance of Spohr's 'Crucifixion,' (a grand work, hitherto untouched in this country,) which is announced for the 16th of March. The attempt is a piece of noble daring, which ought, we think, to be recognized by a very full attendance, and will, we hope, be crowned with success.

## MISCELLANEA

French Academy of Sciences.—M. Bécquerel is elected vice president of the French Academy of Sciences for 1837, by a large majority of votes; and M. Magendie, the last vice president, passes on to the presidency. The Minister of the Interior has commanded a bust of the late celebrated botanist, M. de Jussieu, to be executed for the Academy, by the skilful hands of M. David.

Acoustics.—MM. Cagniard Latour and Demontferrand have invented an instrument which they purpose naming the Acoustic Pyrometer, and which will emit sounds according to the temperature in which it may be placed.

M. Melloni.—The able and celebrated natural philosopher, M. Melloni, who was exiled from Italy, has been recalled by the Duchess of Parma. M. Arago appealed to Prince Metternich in his behalf, at the same time laying before his Highness an analysis of his merits, and his beautiful discoveries. The Prince submitted this statement to the Duchess, and interceded, and consequently M. Melloni is now at liberty to return to his native country.

Aurora Borealis.—Baron de Humboldt writes to M. Arago, that some observations published in the *Journal Astronomique* de Schumacher, by M. Gauss, form another confirmation of M. Arago's assertion, that the Aurora Borealis affects the needle, even in places where it is not seen. It appears, that on the 7th of February, 1835, the variations of the magnetic horizontal needle surpassed all that had ever been witnessed by M. Gauss, and for which he could not ascertain the reason. On this same 7th of February, M. Feldt, professor of natural philosophy at Braunsberg (Eastern Prussia), observed a beautiful Aurora Borealis, which he has described in the *Journal de Poggendorf*. It would seem that the past autumn has been very remarkable for the frequent appearance of this phenomenon, attended by more common brilliancy, and variety of form and colour.

Ancient Mines in Syria. (Extract from a letter addressed by the Rev. J. J. Robertson, to Professor Silliman.)—The director of mines for the kingdom of Greece was at Syria few months since, and I took one or two excursions with him. We discovered on the side of a hill, between the upper and lower towns, an iron mine which had been formerly wrought, and thought it still deserving of attention. The excavation was carried horizontally into the side of the hill, and is now used by shepherds to pen their flocks, and is called the black sheepfold. A little in front of its entrance, stands a large mass of the ore, eight or ten feet high. I remarked that the mine had probably been wrought by the Venetians, towards the end of the period when they had possession of the island, and that this would account for the work having been interrupted. The director replied, that the Venetians would have made use of gunpowder,—but as it is

evident that the ore has been hewn out, and not blasted, it must have been the work of the ancient Greeks.

Climate of Greece.—Some meteorological observations, made in Greece, have been communicated to the French Academy of Sciences. From these it appears that the climate is mild, but variable; that the last three winters have been unusually severe in Athens, and that there are no perpetual snows, for they melt away in the summer. The first snow usually falls in October, and the last in April. In July and August the heat would be insupportable were it not for the sea breezes, which blow about the middle of the day. There is scarcely any rain during the summer, but it falls abundantly at the end of autumn and the beginning of winter; and the quantity much depends on the vicinity of mountains. Storms are rare in the summer time, except on the high mountains—also hail; and a whole month sometimes passes without the appearance of a single cloud. On the coast there are gentle land breezes, which are highly advantageous to the light shipping of the natives. In certain gulf the winds are periodical, and sometimes very violent. A northerly wind, which occasionally blows in the summer, is very hot, and causes sickness. The gulf of Egina, Corinth, Nauplia, Marathonis, and the sea of Ionia, all have the same level, according to the measurement of Captain Peytier.

Plumbago and Black Lead Pencils.—There is only one purpose to which this form of carbon is applied in the solid state, viz., for the manufacture of black lead pencils. One of the most remarkable circumstances connected with the plumbago is the mode in which it is sold. Once a year the mine at Borrowdale is opened, and a sufficient quantity of plumbago is extracted, to supply the market during the ensuing year. It is then closed up, and the product is carried in small fragments of about three and four inches long, to London, where it is exposed to sale, at the black lead market, which is held on the first Monday of every month, at a public house in Essex-street, Strand. The buyers, who amount to about seven or eight, examine every piece with a sharp instrument to ascertain its hardness—those which are too soft being rejected. The individual who has the first choice pays 45s. per pound; the other 30s. But as there is no addition made to the first quantity in the market, during the course of the year, the residual portions are examined over and over again, until they are exhausted. The annual amount of sale is about 3000t. There are three kinds of pencils, common, ever-pointed, and plummets. The latter are composed of one-third sulphure of antimony and two-thirds plumbago. The 1st part of the process is sawing out the cedar into long planks, and then into what are technically called tops and bottoms. The 2d, sawing out the grooves by means of a fly-wheel. The 3d, scraping the lead on a stone; having been previously made into thin slices, to suit the groove; introducing it into the groove, and scratching the side with a sharp pointed instrument, so as to break it off exactly above the groove. The 4th, glueing the tops and bottoms together, and turning the cedar cases in a gauge. The ever-pointed pencils are first cut into thin slabs, then into square pieces, by means of a steel gauge. They are then passed through three small holes, armed with rubies, which last about three or four days. Steel does not last above as many hours. Six of these ever-pointed pencils may be had for 2s. 6d. If they are cheaper than this, we may be sure that they are adulterated. In Paris, when you buy a sheet of paper in a stationer's shop, some of these pencils are added to the purchase. Now these are formed of a mixture of plumbago, fuller's earth, and vermicelli. Genuine cedar pencils must cost 6d. each. If they are sold at a lower price, they must be formed from a mixture, not from pure plumbago. Pencils are, however, sold as low as 4*1/2*d. a dozen. Rec. of Gen. Sc.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Stella—E. V.—S. J.—T. R. I.—received.

We are obliged to J. P., but we have repeatedly stated, that information sent to us is of no value, unless our Correspondent will, in confidence, favour us with his name.

Erratum.—The portrait of Mr. Moore, referred to last week, was engraved by Mr. George Raphael Ward, and not Mr. J. R. Ward, as there stated.

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